THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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Summary of News.

Monday, 26th October.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* noticing the lately published report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in Burmah says: "The Chief Commissioner of Burmah has reviewed the administration of criminal justice in that country for the past year and, as usual, some have got a rap over the knuckles, and a pretty hard one too. In Bassein the results of the trials of prisoners were even worse than they had been in the year before. Either, says the Chief Commissioner, innocent persons are unfairly prosecuted, or sufficient care is not taken to prove the guilt of criminals. 'Either explanation is discreditable to both the police and the magistracy.' This is plain speaking, but it is this sort of 'reviewing' of reports that is wanted in place of so much of the boiling down and feeble commenting that we have so often noticed."

THE Chief Political Officer, of the Manipur State has received permission to raise a force of 500 police from among the Manipuris. The force will be armed with Sniders, which are to be obtained from Kohima, and when organised will relieve the troops of the garrison of such outposts as Kaopum and those on the Kohima-Manipur road. According to a latest intelligence this report is not correct.

A NEW YORK telegram says that a cigar trust has been formed with a capital of twenty-five million dollars, and begins to operate in January. The syndicate will control a hundred thousand workmen and the manufacture of five billion cigars yearly.

THE *Englishman* writes:—There is obviously an error in the New York telegram, announcing the formation of a "cigar trust," quoted by our London correspondent. The Syndicate, it is said, will control a hundred thousand workmen and the manufacture of five billion cigars a year. The absurdity of this very "tall" statement may be easily demonstrated. Assuming the total population of the globe to be fourteen hundred million, this outturn would give close on ten cigars a day to every man, woman, and child on the face of the earth. The mere suggestion should be enough to galvanise the Anti-Tobacco League, which has long been moribund, into the preaching of a new crusade.

THE United States Government has demanded the fullest reparation from Chile for the attack recently made upon a number of seamen belonging to the man-of-war *Baltimore* while ashore at Valparaiso, in which one American sailor was killed and several wounded.

THE Secretary of State has sanctioned the estimate of Rs. 12,46,357, for the construction of the Barsoe-Kissengunge branch of the Assam-Behar section of Eastern Bengal State Railway, a distance of 36 miles.

AFTER the 1st of November only two, instead of three, trains will run daily between Umballa and Kalka, as the traffic in the winter, which, it is believed, will be very small, will hardly require more than two trains.

THE German Emperor's right hand is enormously large and muscular, and his grasp is a tremendous one when he shakes hands. The left arm is, by about the length of a man's hand, shorter than the right, and he can only move it slightly from the shoulder, which he does a great deal, as he gesticulates considerably when speaking. He wears the hussar uniform for preference, as he is able to put his hand into the so-called attila pocket, and thus somewhat hide the proportions of it. The new German infantry sword has been made purposely for his convenience with a short strap, so that he can always rest his hand on the hilt; which, though comfortable for him, is most uncomfortable for any one else. The Emperor's beard is not divided at the chin, as is so much the fashion in Germany, but brought to a point in the French style.

THE recent speech of Mr. Foster, Secretary to the Treasury, which is regarded at New York as a severe blow to the free coinage agitation, has caused a fresh fall in the price of silver in that city.

Tuesday, 27th October.

GEORGE AUSGUSTUS SALA thus writes to the *Morning Post* "on books":—"Those most useful public servants, the public librarians, seem to think that the time is fully ripe for the establishment of a society for the prevention of cruelty to books. Of such a society I would willingly become a member. Books are such quiet, constant, faithful, generous friends that I hold it to be almost as shameful to maltreat them as it is to abuse children, or dumb animals; and it is difficult to believe that Mr. Carlyle could have been quite in his right mind when he scribbled "Cock a-doodledo," with a whole forest of notes of exclamation following, at the foot of a version of "Rule Britannia" in a book which he had borrowed from the London Library. Perhaps the ill conditioned philosopher might have held his Vandal hand had he chosen to remember that the words of "Rule Britannia" were written by a Scotchman.

THE activity of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress is (writes a journalistic gossip) really surprising for a woman of her age. Many who are twenty years younger than she would feel the fatigue of a two days' journey without a break, even in a saloon carriage. It must be the fresh air, in which the Queen spends so much of her time, that makes her so strong. When at Osborne she breakfasts in a little wooden house on the lawn; the sides are fitted with sliding panels, so that the occupants can enjoy as much air as possible without draught or too much exposure to the prevailing wind.

THE Union Pacific Railroad possesses a novelty in labour-saving appliances in the shape of a compressed air car-duster, for use in cleaning the inside of passenger cars. In the sheds at Portland, Oregon, the passenger car yard is laid with pipes in connection with the air compressing plant. At convenient intervals an ordinary garden house with a nozzle is attached to the pipes in a manner which will allow the nozzle to be conveniently drawn into a passenger car through a window, where the air, at a pressure of 50lb is used to blow the dust out of every possible lodging place, including the plush upholestery.

THE survey which the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company are about to undertake from Sambulpur to Cuttack will be to the west and south of the Mahanadi, the main road between these two towns runs to the north of that river. The Company, however, consider that the southern route passing through Sonpur and Bod would attract more local traffic and would also serve to open out the Televalley. Against this must be put the cost of bridging the Mahanadi at Sambulpur. If the northern route were adopted this bridge would not, of course, be required. The East Coast Railway, when completed through to Calcutta, will cross the river at Cuttack itself, that town lying on the south bank. The Sambulpur-Cuttack extension will enable pilgrims from Bengal, Upper India and the Central Provinces to travel all the way to the abode of Jagannath by rail, and an immense traffic should spring up in a few years. The Bengal-Nagpur Company in selecting the route south of the Mahanadi have possibly in their mind's eye the eventual linking of their system with Vizagapatam by a line running due south from Sonpur to the East Coast Railway in the neighbourhood of that port.

IT is a dangerous thing to prosecute a man for a criminal offence in America. If the prosecutor cannot find bail for his appearance at the trial he has to go to prison in the meantime, and a case is said to have actually occurred not long ago in which a man who had been robbed was committed for want of sureties, while the robber was liberated on bail. The statement appears in the Report of the Howard Association.

THE *Dainik* says that in the list of jurors for the Hugly District, published in the, *Calcutta Gazette*, there are 1,655 Native gentlemen and 66 Europeans. It has been prepared with great carelessness, the names of many dead gentlemen having been inserted therein. Jurors belonging to one Thannah have been wrongly put under the head of another Thannah, and some times names of villages have been wrongly mentioned.

TYPHUS is raging amongst the Russian troops encamped on the Austrian and German frontiers, and will probably compel their withdrawal.

Wednesday, 28th October.

THE *Civil and Military Gazette* says:—"The Bengal Government is said to be willing to recognize the claims of the Buddhists to the prossession of the Temple at Budh Gya, but as Buddha has come to be regarded as a Hindu deity, he being one of the ten incarnations of Vishnu, Hindus cannot be absolutely deprived of whatever religious use they may wish to make of the temple. The affairs of the temple point to a decision by the Local Government which would pay due regard to the religious susceptibilities of both the communities. In settling the ownership of the property appertaining to the temple, some serious difficulty is apprehended, and Sir Charles Elliott will certainly have a few vexatious hours before he can come to a satisfactory conclusion in this problem, which originated from that devout English admirer of Buddha, Sir Edwin Arnold. In this connection, we hear that a dozen Japanese and Sinhalese Buddhist priests have arrived at Budh Gya and purchased half an acre of land, close to the temple there, on which they propose building a Buddhist monastery."

THE *Pioneer* says:—

No surer means, we should imagine, could well be devised of making a good officer into a bad one than the issue of such a set of rules as Sir Charles Elliott has just had published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. Under this new code it will be seen that every grade of official and each Head of Department has now got his precise instructions for his own particular case as to how many days he is to be out on tour in the cold weather, how many during the rains; exactly what localities or institutions he must visit, once a year, or twice a year, or once in two years, as the case may be. No Head of a Department is to be in Darjiling during the absence of the Lieutenant-Governor, without special permission—just as undergraduates have to ask leave to "stay up when term is over. The result of instructions conceived in a spirit of this kind can only be degrading to the *morale* of the whole service. It converts any reasonable latitude which men of long service and high position such as Commissioners and heads of Departments may permit themselves, in their interpretation of the effective discharge of their duty, into positive disobedience of orders: and it tends to turn the Secretariat into a detective office for the discovery of such breaches of the rules. In one respect, however, Sir Charles Elliott's instructions on the subject are a little less wooden than those which were promulgated for a neighbouring province for they do recognise that there is a difference between district and distrct for purposes of camping whereas in the other case a rigid standard of four months was laid down for every Collector alike, until the absurdity of such a regulation caused it to be modified.

PRINCE Damrong of Siam is at present a visitor to England. He will go to St. Petersburg in November, and will stay a month at the Czar's winter palace.

FEVER is very prevalent just now at Benares, and is in part ascribed to the low state of the river Baruna flowing through the station, which, through the dam at the mouth not being erected yet, is a mass of fœtid mud, and demands immediate attention from the District Board.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Aden that a terrible murder was committed there on the 16th instant by a man of the Connaught Rangers, who shot a corporal of the same regiment. It is stated that the former had only recently been transferred to the regiment from a Cavalry Regiment in India. He is eighteen years of age. He effected the murder with a round of ammunition which he had stolen, shooting the corporal dead at few paces. Great sensation has been caused in the station by the atrocious deed.

A RAILWAY accident, attended with loss of life, occurred on Tuesday near the city of Grenoble in France. A passenger train travelling at a high rate of speed left the rails and fell over a bank. Fifteen persons were killed and fifty injured.

A BOMB was exploded on Monday night outside the National Press Office in Dublin. The explosion shattered the windows of the building, but nobody was hurt.

PARNELLITES and anti-Parnellites are fighting once more in Dublin—with clubs and stones. The occasion is the election necessitated by Mr. Parnell's death. Mr. O'Brien declares that a union with the Parnellites is impossible.

Thursday, 29th October.

THE *Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Recorder* says :—"Messrs. Turner, Morrison & Co. have added to their Insurance Agency policies for marriage dowries. It is hoped, this will save Hindu families from the bankruptcy that so often follows on a Hindu marriage, and will give daughters a brighter reception than they now receive when they introduce themselves to the nursery."

THE Resolution on the administration of the Excise Department in Bengal for 1890-91, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 21st instant says :—

The Lieutenant-Governor must decline to endorse Mr. Westmacott's sweeping condemnation of *ganja* as a most pernicious article. Sir Charles Elliott has known many instances of its steady and regular use by most respectable people, who find themselves able to do hard work with its help, and who feel no injurious effects from it. In this respect it resembles opium. After taking a small quantity of either drug, boatmen and dak runners can go long distances, and coolies carry heavy loads without requiring much food, so that both articles are, like alcohol, a food of a highly concentrated nature.

A PARAGRAPH has appeared lately in some papers, stating that the meeting of the Bharat Dharma Mahamandal will be held at Lahore. The report is not correct. For obvious reasons, it cannot be held at Lahore. The annual meeting of the Bharat Dharma Mohamondal will be held on the Sivaratri day, corresponding with 26th February next, at Benares or in Behar, which will be duly announced.

MR. F. B. Stewart, Manager of Messrs Tomson and Taylor, Chemists of Rampart Row, has just completed a most ingeniously arranged electrical instalation for H. H. the Gaekwar of Baroda. It consists of two tiny incandescent lamps, which are to be worn in the head gear of H. H.'s carriage horses. The light in each of the little glass globes is equal to 10 candle power, and the electric current which supplies it is conveyed by two wires, which are connected with six day accumulators cancealed beneath the coachman's seat and pass along the traces, thence up the bridle to the globes, the wires being so strongly, yet neatly, covered as to be in no way a source of danger to the animals carrying the lamps. The idea is as pretty as it is unique, and the manner in which it has been worked out does much credit to Mr. Stwrt.—*Times of India.*

AN eye-witness writes to the *Madras Mail* :—'The barbarous and cruel custom of hook-swinging to propitiate the Goddess of Rain, which has been obsolete for sometime, has been revived at Sholavandan near Madura. Eight men were selected, according to the time-honoured plan, from four villages ; and lots were cast among them. The lot fell on a stoutly built, well developed Kullen, twenty-three years of age. Immediately on being selected by lot he was taken to the temple in Sholavandan and kept closely within its walls till the day when the barbarous exhibition was to take place. Thousands, lured by curiosity, had come into the town, and the streets were thronged. Early in the morning the victim dressed in a purple cloth and other fancy costume, came out and walked briskly about here and there, his most frequent destination being to view the car with its long pole, on which he was to swing. Crowds followed him about, and to all faces to be seen none bore a more placid, not of say happy, expression than his. After half an hour's walk he went again within the temple walls. The manner in which this horrible custom is carried out consists in passing iron hooks through the deep muscles of the back, attaching a rope to the hooks, and (after the method of a well sweep) swinging the victim to a height of several feet above the heads of the people. The car on which the pole is placed is then drawn along by large ropes in willing hands. There can be no doubt that the victim of these proceedings has been heavily drugged before the hooks are passed. Full details of this hook-swinging affair are too revolting for publication. The question might be asked, why does not Government interfere to prevent these demoralizing and bloody exhibitions.'

WISKY has long been regarded as of value in the treatment of pneumonia, but a comparison of the results attained in different hospitals by its use in this capacity shows that its employment is not desirable. It is found that in New York hospitals sixty-five per cent of the pneumonia patients die under alcoholic treatment, while in London, at the Object Lesson Temperance Hospitals, only five per cent die.

THE *Times'* St. Petersburg correspondent declares that Russia's action on the Pamir is due to the belief that the English, Afghans and Chinese are gradually closing upon the region, and Russia desires to take a share before it is too late. He directs attention to the Trans-Caspian country, where things have not been quiescent and stagnant this last summer as would seem to be the case. General Kouropatkin has been most active in visiting the frontier and constructing military and strategical roads.

Friday, 30th October.

AT the conference of Census officers at Simla last week it was decided what points in the administration of the operations connected with the Census required special modification of rules and procedure, and a fairly definite conclusion was arrived at as to what statistics should be prepared on future occasions. The conference discussed the value of the present returns, so far as the provincial totals were available, but Mr. Baines and his colleagues were not in a position to deal with the complicated questions of caste and occupation.

A GENTLEMAN holding a high position in the British Army thus writes about the present state of European politics. The influence above all others which was thrown in the scale of peace, and possibly turned the scale, was that of the Emperor William. M. Blowitz, the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, declares that the French Government is awaiting the opening of the Chambers in order to sound Deputies on the question of concluding a formal alliance with Russia and giving precise shape to the arrangements that have been made. He asserts that a military convention has existed between France and Russia for fifteen months. By virtue of that agreement the French Government began furnishing Russia with a certain quantity of Lebel rifles, the despatch of which however, was suspended owing to a change in the Czar's opinion. But it is not now a question of that agreement, nor of an eventual agreement for common action in Chira, nor of concerted action at Constantinople and Cairo which will shortly be evidenced under the form of the initiative taken by the Sultan, supported by France and Russia. It is a treaty of alliance and friendship between France and Russia which is now being negotiated, and will shortly be signed, and under Article 8 of the French Constitutional Law of 1875 may remain a secret as long as the President thinks proper. M. Blowitz has reason to believe that when the treaty is signed the details will only be known to four persons—M. Carnot, M. de Freycinet, M. Ribot, and M. Montebello, the ambassador at St. Petersburg.

IN connection with M. Blowitz's story it is somewhat significant to note that the *Standard's* correspondent at Constantinople says the Russian Ambassador is following up the Dardanelles achievement and trying to bind the Sultan to a policy of strict neutrality in any future European war. M. Nelidoff does not ask for a formal treaty on the subject, but will content himself with a simple declaration in the form of a letter from the Sultan, addressed to either him or the Czar, stating that Turkey will not take an active part in a future European struggle. The *Standard's* correspondent thinks that though the Sultan is no mean diplomatist, he may fall into the snare prepared for him, because at first sight there is nothing more agreeable to the Turk than the prospect of quietly looking on while other Powers are engaged in a deadly conflict. Turkey's geographical position, however, will not admit of this pleasant dream becoming a reality. The *Standard's* news has attracted much attention in Germany, where it is regarded as probably quite correct. The incident is looked upon as a consequence of the recent Russo-Turkish agreement about the Dardanelles. Berliners consider that it is England's duty to prevent such a promise being given.

THE following circular, which has been issued by one of the leading Banks in Bombay, speaks for itself —"The verdicts given by juries here and in Calcutta in cases of embezzlement of funds belonging to public Companies by persons in their employ, have rendered imperative an increased vigilance on the part of Banks and establishments having large money transactions. I therefore call your attention most particularly to 'No. 2 of the Bank's Rules in Accounts Current,' and request you '*in your own interests*' to make a point of always sending in your Pass Book when paying money into account, and seeing that the entry in the Pass Book bears the initials of a European officer of the Bank."

THE despatch on the Assam emigration question, sent to the Secretary of State for India, is long and exhaustive. It is said to be one of the biggest pieces of work, accomplished during the closing season.

THE Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces is anxious to induce immigration from Behar, with a view to populate the thousands of square miles in those provinces, which need cultivation.

THE *Star* of London says :—"Mr. Hurry Singh Gour, whose book of poems, entitled, "Stepping Westward," may be considered as one of the first successful attempts by a Hindu scholar in blank verse, has now achieved a brilliant reputation at Cambridge as a speaker. He is only twenty-two years of age, and is a member of the Inner Temple. Professor Henry Sedgwick has lately been revising Mr. Gour's forthcoming book on "The Destiny of Man," which will be interesting as giving us an Indian's view of the immortality of the soul.'

Saturday, 31st October.

THE Land Indebtedness Commission will, it is said, commence operations towards the end of next January under the presidency of Sir Charles Crosthwaite. It is said that it will enquire into the working of the Deccan Agriculturists Relief Act in the four districts of the Bombay Presidency in which it has been in force and also the question of its maintenance and the modifications which should be made in it. It will also consider the advisability of its extention, with the modifications should they be deemed necessary, to certain other districts in the Bombay Presidency. It is likely, too, that the Commission will extend the scope of its enquiry to the general question of land indebtedness in Upper India and the measures to be taken to counteract it, in which case the Commission is likely to sit for several months. The Cimmission is to consist of four other members and a Secretary. Mr. Leslie Porter, Officiating Deputy Secretary in the Legislative Department, will probably be selected for this latter place. Of the members, the North-West Provinces Government have nominated Mr. H. F. Evans, and the Punjab Government Mr. Rivaz Bombay has yet to nominate a member. Madras and Bengal will not be represented.

THE Zoological Gardens at Calcutta have to thank the *Ardhodya Yoga* for a considerable increase in the amount of their receipts during the past year. The number of visitors who paid for admission to the gardens was more than 136,000, excluding students and children, who were admitted free of charge. The total shows an increase of nearly 27,000 over the figures for 1889-90. In the course of the year a large number of additions were made to the collection, including a greater Bird of Paradise presented by the Maharaja of Dumraon, a pair of Ursine Dasyure from Melbourne, and a hairy Tapir from Columbia. A Trans-Indus Markhoor, presented by the Political Officer at the Khyber, was sent to the Zoological Society's Gardens in London, as it was feared that the climate of Bengal would prove unsuitable.

SPEAKING of Hyderabad affairs, apropos of Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick's tenure of the office of Resident, the *Pioneer* writes :—"We do not mean to say that matters in Hyderabad are in a critical state. That there is considerable dissatisfaction amongst a certain class, the class temporarily out of power, goes without saying. It is a firmer ground for criticism that for three years nothing has been done towards the settlement of the enormous claims of private creditors, and to judge from several sensational cases that during the last three years have been published, there can be no doubt that the administration of justice leaves much to be desired. The Judges are not independent, and the Goverument is said to interfere improperly in the action of the Courts. Assuming that where there is so much smoke there must be some fire, does it not appear probable that such a state of things might have been mitigated had the Resident been disposed to use his opportunities more? It need hardly be said that between the two policies there is no certain boundary line: and while each has its strong advocates it seems possible that whilst a British Resident may with justice, from his point of view, point to the cordial and confidential relations which he has been able to maintain with the Native States, others may take that very harmony as a proof that his influence has been insufficiently exerted."

A MOVEMENT is on foot in Edinburgh to invite Mr. W. S Caine, late M. P., for Barrow, to become the Gladstonian candidate for the representation of the Southern Division, in the room of Mr. Childers, who has announced his intention of retiring at the General Election. Mr. Caine is to speak in Edinburgh shortly ; but the meeting which he is to address was arranged before the announcement of Mr. Childers' retirement.

MR. TOYNBEE, the Commissioner of Orissa, starts shortly for an extended tour. It is rumoured that the Raja of Keonjhur will be allowed to return to his estate, but accompanied by a European officer of experience who will advise in cases of difficulty.

WITH reference to statements that have recently been made respecting the post of Commander-in-Chief in India, the *Court Circular* states that no successor to Sir Frederick Roberts has been appointed.

THE Queen has conferred on Lady Roberts, the wife of the Commander-in-Chief in India, the Order of the Royal Red Cross. Lady Roberts has done much for improvement of the condition of the British Soldier in India and this is a proper recognition of her services.

IN consequence of recent crimes in Germany, the Emperor William has issued a decree in which he commands that vigorous action shall be taken against prostitutes and their bullies and for the protection of the police. In these cases his Majesty enjoins upon the Court to pass severe sentences on all such persons and deprecates false humanity.

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THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(210, BOW-BAZAR STREET.)

(SESSION 1891-92.)

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S. on *Wednesday* the *4th November*, at 4-15 P. M.
Subject: Manganese and Chromium.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on *Thursday* the *5th Nov.*, at 4-15 P. M.

LECTURE by the Rev. Father Lafton, S. J., C. I. E., on *Thusday*, the *5th Nov.*, at 7 P. M.
Subject: The Nature of sound.

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C., S. on *Friday*, the *6th Nov.* at 4-15 P. M.
Subject: Tin.

LECTURE by Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S. on *Saturday*, the *7th Nov.* at 3 P. M.
Subject: Antimony and Bismuth.

PRACTICAL CLASS in Chemistry under Babu Ram Chandra Datta, F. C. S., on *Saturday*, the *7th Nov.*, at 4-15 P. M.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
October 31st, 1891. *Honorary Secretary.*

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1891.

THE VICEROY IN KASHMIR.

THE Viceroy's utterances in Kashmir which are of an eminently conciliating nature, will set at rest the wild rumours and conjectures that had been indulged in ever since the announcement of his Excellency's visit. We congratulate His Excellency on his wisdom in taking the first possible opportunity to allay public fears that hostile intentions were entertained by Government regarding the Happy Valley. The occasion for enunciation of the Kashmir Policy of Government was given by the State banquet which the Maharaja gave his Excellency on Saturday before last and almost immediately following His Excellency's arrival. After the loyal toast to the Queen had been proposed and drunk with becoming honors, the Maharaja proposed the Viceroy's toast through Colonel Prideaux, in the following terms:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have been commissioned by His Highness the Maharaja to express the great gratification he feels at the visit which their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Lansdowne have paid to his capital. It has been a long cherished desire on the part of His Highness that the Viceroy of India should visit Kashmir, and he is extremely thankful to say that that desire has now been fulfilled, and that His Highness's wishes have been responded to. The romance of travel in Kashmir has, perhaps, suffered to some extent by the construction of the Jhelum Valley Road, but it is, I think, satisfactory that His Excellency has been able to see for himself one of the great engineering works which in future times will serve to commemorate His Highness's rule. His Highness has always shown interest in public works, and among other great works completed within the last few years have been the Sialkot and Jummu Railway Waterworks at Jummu, which have been a source of great convenience to that town, and we also hope to see completed next winter, the Tavi Bridge, which will serve to connect both sides of the river which flows past Jummu, and which will be not only a source of convenience to the inhabitants of Jummu, but I trust also a source of revenue to the Kashmir State. Besides this, the road, over which His Excellency has just travelled, is but the first section of one of the most important highways, I may say in India. Within a year or two that road will be completed as far as Gilgit, and I think I may say, without any hyperbole, that that road will be the artery by which the pulsations will be felt from the fertile plains of the Punjab to those arterial limits which form the northern portion of His Highness's territory.

These were His Highness' sentiments as much as the gallant Colonel's, for His Highness is thoroughly loyal and attached to the Paramount Power, inspite of the policy that has lately been adopted in regard to him. His Highness was very anxious to see the Viceroy on various matters in connection with himself and his State and his gratification must have been great at the prospect of a personal interview with Lord Lansdowne. The Viceroy fully reciprocated the good wishes conveyed by the Colonel and said:—

Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I thank your Highness cordially for the kind manner in which, by your Highness's instructions, Colonel Prideaux has proposed my health. The visit which I am paying to Kashmir is in realisation of a wish which I have cherished for a long time. There is, I suppose, no part of the British Empire which any Englishman arriving in India is more anxious to see than that of which your Highness is the ruler. Its marvellous beauties have from the time when European visitors first found their way into this valley been celebrated by the traveller and the poet, and even on my way here I have seen enough to convince me that the expectations which I have formed are not likely to be disappointed. Having now had some experience of the scenery of India, as well as of that of the North American Continent, I will venture to say that the Jhelum Valley need not fear comparison in point of beauty with any other part of the world. I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my thanks for the arrangements which were made for our journey both by land and water. Nature provided the scenery, but we should not have enjoyed it as we did but for the excellence of the new road along the valley—a thoroughfare to which Colonel Prideaux has just referred, the importance and convenience of which can hardly be overestimated. Even if the Kashmir State has to wait for a few years before it is connected by a railway with British India, the existing Cart Road supplies an admirable channel of communication, which I have no doubt is specially appreciated by those who, in former years, were condemned to travel by the old road.

His Excellency's observations were not, however, confined to common place platitudes, which under the circumstances would have to be taken as an ominous sign. Alarming reports about confiscation and purchase were being sedulously circulated by wily designers and the strength of the Goorkha escort of the Viceroy is said to have tended to strengthen the suspicions. The Viceroy, however, dispelled them in a few lucid, vigrous and well-conceived sentences and said:

But, your Highness, anxious as I was to visit your State, it was certainly not merely with the object of seeing its great natural beauties that I undertook my present tour. If I had been coming here merely as a tourist, I should have regarded my visit with much less intent than that which I feel in it at the present moment. It is not necessary for me to remind your Highness that almost from the time of my arrival in India the affairs of Kashmir have constantly engaged my thoughts. The principal cause of my anxiety not to postpone my visit to you was a desire which I felt to make your Highness's personal acquaintance—a desire which, I am glad to think, was reciprocated by you, and to effect a full and frank interchange of ideas with you upon matters of interest to us both. I was also anxious to meet again your Highness's brothers, Raja Amar Singh, President of the Council, and Raja Ram Singh, the Commander-in-Chief, and to hear from them something of the work upon which the State Council has recently been engaged.

The Viceroy admitted the importance of the work in hand and the satisfactory progress that was being made. His Excellency said:—

That work has been of an exceptionally important character. The reports of the Council claim for it—and I am glad to say claim for it not without reason—that it has during the last few months initiated several very substantial improvements in the administration of the State—I say initiated, because the real difficulties of reformation begin, when reforms, which have been elaborated on paper, come to be submitted to the test of practical application. I believe, however, that the Council has made a good and courageous beginning. The preliminary work of the revenue settlement has, I am glad to learn, made good progress, and the whole question of Revenue Administration is under consideration. In this branch of the administration Raja Amar Singh has, I know, taken a particular interest. At this moment a British official—I refer to Mr. Logan—an official of special experience in financial matters whose services we have temporarily placed at the disposal of the Darbar, is engaged in a full enquiry into the finances of the State—an investigation which the Council has done well to court, and which it has, I am happy to say, facilitated to the best of its powers and the results of this enquiry will, I hope, be laid before me shortly. I trust that amongst those results will be the introduction of a sound system of audit and account, which, I need not say, is the very backbone and essence of good administration, whether in a Native State or in an Indian Province. In the Judicial Department, presided over by Pundit Bagh Ram, several changes, likely to produce useful improvements, if they are properly carried into effect, have, I am told, been approved by the Council.

But internal administration was not all that the Viceroy touched upon. A vigorous administration in the army is as much the concern of the Government as strategic roads and frontier defences. His Excellency did not care to conceal the strategic importance of the State and said:—

Last but not least the administration of the Army has been vigorously taken in hand by Raja Ram Sing who holds a commission in the British Army, upon which I beg to congratulate him, and who has, I rejoice to know, been greatly assisted by Colonel Neville Chamberlain, the officer who, at the special request of the Council, I placed at its disposal nearly two years ago. I believe I am not exaggerating when I say that in the place of a large and irregularly paid force, indifferently equipped and badly disciplined, the State is in a fair way of obtaining a smaller force, much more efficient and much more likely to prove a source of strength to the State and to the Empire. Your Highness will, I am sure, think it only natural that I should desire to satisfy myself upon the spot of the extent of these reforms; that I should wish to learn from the Resident, who, I am glad to know, enjoys the entire confidence of your Highness, from the Council, and from your Highness, what has already been done, and what yet remains to be achieved. I have only been few hours in Srinagar, and we have as yet been able to do little more than commence a discussion of these important subjects. But before I leave the State I shall, I hope, be able to obtain much information which will enable me to form a clearer opinion with regard to the measures which it may be desirable to adopt for the future government of the State.

This may be taken as an earnest of bettering the status of the Maharaja in his own State. At present he is in disgrace at best and the Viceroy has said nothing that would justify this state of things being continued. His Excellency could not of course on the spot and on the spur of the moment give any definite assurances. But assurances of friendship and sympathy were given and given far more freely than might have been expected under the circumstances.

His Excellency concluded:—

Your Highness may depend upon it that I shall approach the consideration of those questions in which you are so deeply interested with feelings entirely friendly towards your Highness. I am, indeed, glad to be able on this interesting occasion, to assure your Highness publicly, as I have already done in my private communications, that the Government of India has throughout entertained towards your Highness and towards the Kashmir State no sentiments other than those of sincere good-will and sympathy coupled with the earnest desire to assist you in surmount ing many difficulties, and in bearing the heavy load of the responsibilities with which you have been confronted. I trust that assurance, which I am thus able to give your Highness, will dispel once and for ever the mistaken idea that in its dealings with the Kashmir State, the Government of India harbour for a moment, any ulterior designs upon its rights and privileges. The connection of the Kashmir State with the Government of India has always been of a specially intimate character. The State owes its very existence to the grant made to your Highness's ancestors in 1846, and upon more than one occasion, in its subsequent history, it has given evidence of its loyalty and attachment to the Government and the Crown. I feel no doubt that the loyalty of the Kashmir State is at the present time entirely above suspicion, and that just as it came forward at the time of the Mutiny as our staunch ally, so, if an opportunity should again arise, the Kashmir troops commanded by your Highness's brother, Raja Ram Singh and particularly that portion of them which have been placed under special discipline for the Imperial Service, will be again found ready to take their place by the side of ours. I shall be glad if my visit to Kashmir serves to strengthen and to consolidate the amicable relations by which the State has been bound to the Government of the Queen-Empress, and I offer to your Highness and to the State Council my sincere thanks for the manner in which you have received Lady Lansdowne and myself in the State of Kashmir.

Nothing would have been lost by omission of the reference to the grant of 1846. Kashmir is a near and important ally of the British Government and it may always be expected to do its duty. It is said that the impression produced by the Viceroy's speech among the leaders in the State was most satisfactory. There was a lingering suspicion that some political change was contemplated, and the Viceroy's clear and decided utterance will undoubtedly put an end to this feeling at once and for good. The courteous bearing of the Maharaja during the Viceroy's visit is said to have been very marked, and the friendly attitude of the Viceroy towards his Highness was also observed.

Their Excellencies and Staff went by boat on Monday after luncheon to the Lal Mundir Palace to visit the exhibition of textile and metal wares. On their return they proceeded to the Maidan where an entertainment was given by a band of musicians and *nauch* men from Gilgit. An exhibition of Gilgit Polo was also given The programme of the tour in Kashmir has been slightly modified and His Excellency was away from Srinagar for six days, when there was plenty of sport and sightseeing.

THE BENGAL AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

THE Annual Report of the Director of Land Records and Agriculture in Bengal for 1890-91 has been reviewed by the Local Government in an interesting Resolution. The Report is divided into two main parts, of which the first part

deals with the surveys and settlements in progress during the year; and the second part relates to agricultural enquiries and improvements and cognate subjects. Sir Charles Elliott rightly holds that some definite principle should be laid down as to what settlements should be treated of in the Director's report, and what should be omitted. His Honor observes:—"In all riparian districts along the Ganges and Brahmaputra Eastern Bengal, there are great numbers of *chars* and islands, sometimes belonging to Government sometimes to private owners, which are subject to diluviation and in which settlements are constantly going on. Some of these settlements in Dacca, Backergunge and Noakhali have been selected for inclusion in the Appendices or for mention in the report, and the majority are not included; but it is not clear on what principle has the selection been made. Again, it is also observed that in some instances estates entered in the Appendices have not been noticed in the report, but the grounds for this omission are not apparent. If it is not considered advisable to refer in the report to every settlement, the natural course, and that which should be adopted, would be to notice the larger and more important operations; but this does not appear to have been done in the present instance, where such settlements as those of the Khosalpur estate in the Nuddea district, and of certain *chars* and small private estates in the Noakhali and Tipperah districts have been selected for particular mention." The Director of Agriculture, and, indeed, all heads of departments in the Lower Provinces should clearly realise the fact that under the present *regime* they will not be permitted to do things in the style to which they have become accustomed.

It appears that the work of settlement is being carried out on a large scale in these provinces in three tracts which are under the supervision of the Director—Orissa, Chittagong, and the Julpaiguri Duars. Sir Charles Elliott is dissatisfied with the slow progress of work in connection with the general survey and settlement of Orissa. In Chittagong survey and settlement have been going on in two parts—old Thana Ranu and the Sudder Sub division. The settlement staff were mainly engaged last year in completing the survey records of 195 villages, and in demarcation and settlement of boundary disputes. The total cost of survey and settlement in Chittagong up to the end of the past year was 2 lakhs of rupees, and the settlement has been estimated to result in an increase of revenue to the extent of a lakh and-a-quarter. Sir Charles Elliott personally inspected the settlement operations in the Jalpaiguri Duars in April last and found that the figures as to the survey given in the Director's report for the previous year were not quite correct. Many errors and defects were discovered in the maps and accompanying records prepared by the Survey Department, and the Settlement Officer was much delayed in his proper work by the delay in completing them, and by the necessity of correcting them when sent in. Coming to the next class into which the operations of the Department may naturally be divided—namely the settlement of certain large scattered Government estates in different parts of the country—we are told that the only representatives are Angul and Banki in Orissa. As to the work done in these two estates during the past year the report under review gives very little information. Next come the small scattered Government estates, mostly *chars* or islands in the great rivers, which were never settled with any one, or have fallen into the hands of Government through default of their proprietors by reason of diluviation. The largest collection of these constitutes what is called the "Backergunge Government estates." Sir Charles Elliott complains that the Director's report with its Appendices exhibits great confusion as to the actual number of estates in the Backergunge district; and he has been called upon to explain in his next report the exact number of surveys and settlements pending in that district. The fourth important class of estates under the Settlement Department are those belonging to the Government Wards. One of the largest of these is the Srinagar-Baneli estate in the Bhagulpur Division. The Director explains the method adopted of settling fair rents on the basis of existing rates, an allowance in the area being made for difference in the method of measurement and for more accurate survey. The last class of estates which have come under settlement operations consists of those which belong to private proprietors and in which a record of rights is prepared under section 177 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, because of disputes between land-owners and the tenants. The Director's report under review makes mention of such estates in four districts. Sir Charles Elliott remarks that the account of the year's work respecting some of these districts is meagre. His Honor also points out that the Director has only mentioned the important subject of the maintenance of records in the case of three settlements—those of the Angul and Banki Government estates in Orissa and of the Srinagar-Baneli estates in Behar. The Director is desired to state in his future reports what steps, if any, have been taken with a view to the maintenance of the village records in estates in which settlement proceedings have been completed during the year or have approached completion.

With regard to agricultural enquiries, experiments and improvements, we learn from the Resolution under notice that the analysis of the districts of Dacca and Lohardagga has been completed and that of the Nuddea and Cuttack districts is now going on. Agricultural experiments were carried on during the year at the three experimental farms at Sibpur, Burdwan and Dumraon, and also on a smaller scale in various Government, wards and private estates, the principal products experimented on being paddy, wheat, potatoes, sugarcane and fodder grasses. With regard to paddy and wheat, the chief experiments, we are told, were made at Dumraon, and were designed to test the relative merits of deep and shallow ploughing and different kinds of manure, and, in the case of wheat, of well-water and canal-water. The results of these experiments are thus summarised in the Resolution under notice:—"With transplanted paddy a mixture of crude saltpetre and linseed cake gave the heaviest outturn, and with broad cast paddy cowdung produced the best results, while deep ploughing to a depth of four or five inches gave an increase in outturn of 24 seers of grain and 3 maunds 20 seers of straw per acre. Wheat appeared to be particularly benefited here by a manure of saltpetre alone or mixed with ashes, while in the Burdwan farm bone-meal yielded a large increase. The extra yield obtained by irrigating the crop with well-water did not repay the extra expense as against that of canal water. The largest outturn of potatoes was obtained at the Dumraon farm with green manures, but it is unfortunate that the outturn of the crops on the Burdwan farm is given per bigha, while that of Dumraon is given per acre, thus rendering comparison difficult." It is a great pity that no information is given regarding the cost of these experiments. We should particularly like to know if the value of the increase in outturn which resulted from the use of manures was sufficient to pay for them. It cannot be too carefully borne in mind that the ryot does not cultivate to advance science, or solve the problems of agricultural chemistry, but for lucre; and that a larger gross yield may be accompanied with smaller net profits. Artificial manures may increase the production, but they are costly, and it is often a very nice question whether the increased production will balance the outlay. In the Resolution under notice Sir Charles Elliott admits that the uncertainty of the experiments carried on at Sibpur, Burdwan and Dumraon is exemplified by the fact that at the last-named place crude saltpetre failed this year to produce any increase in outturn, although in the preceding year it gave the best results of all manures; and also by the fact that whereas in Sibpur the experiments in sugarcane showed a distinct advantage in favour of the *Saharunpur* as compared with the *Samsara* variety, the experiments produced a directly opposite result. Now, our enthusiastic agricultural reformers should remember that the ryot cannot afford to lose by a risky experiment, and that he may often make more profit from low class cultivation and inexpensive implements than if he followed the advice of irresponsible theorists and adopted improved farming, especially in the application of costly artificial manures.

CESS ACT OPERATIONS IN BENGAL.

THE Resolution of the Bengal Government on the Report of the Board of Revenue on the Road and Public Works Cess operations for the year 1890-91, is an interesting review of this branch of the Revenue Administration. Cesses were everywhere levied at full rates, except in Backergunge, where, for special reasons, now alleged to have spent their force, the Road Cess has been levied at half the maximum rate. The main results of the working of the Cess Act show in some respects satisfactory improvement. The net demand for the year under review has increased by about 2 lakhs as compared with the previous year, but the total collection was Rs. 70,672 less. The arrear demand for 1890-91 exceeds the net balance of the preceding year by about 2 lakhs, the difference being regarded by the Board as due to revaluations of rent-free holdings with retrospective effect, revisions of assessments and adjustment of accounts. There has been an increase of nearly 3 lakhs in the balances of the past year, and the Board refer to three causes as being responsible for this increase. The first is that the 28th and 29th of March were holidays, the second that the fifteen days' grace allowed to assessees under section 45 of the Act led to payments being deferred until after the close of the year, and the third that difficulty is experienced in realising arrears under section 70 from rentfree holdings which had previously escaped valuation. The Resolution, however, does not regard these causes as of sufficient potency, and does not see how they could have affected the collections with material injury. The plausibility of two other causes suggested by the Board is admitted, *viz* that the work of realisation was not performed in all districts with sufficient energy and that the process of issuing certificates is always a dilatory one. What the Lieutenant Governor is inclined to think, and what appears to us to be the fact, is that the huge balance has been left mainly on account of the extremely complex machinery we at present possess for collecting not only cesses but land revenue. There is in this connection, a broad field for reform, and the Resolution points out that by altering the *kist* days, classifying estates on a more intelligible system, simplifying the land revenue-roll and possibly to some extent amalgamating with it some of the registers kept up under the Cess Act, important improvement may be effected.

In twenty-one districts the arrear collections fell short of 90 per cent of the arrear demand. The lowest figure is shown by Burdwan, where the percentage of collection under this head stood at 17·8. The explanation given is that in that district there is a large number of rent-free holdings from which cess collection is always a difficult affair, and that frequent changes of the district officers have prevented any continuous effort being made to realise these balances. The resolution rejects this explanation as inadequate, and remarks that, inasmuch as the process of realising arrears of cesses is a purely mechanical one, if any one of these district officers had organised the routine arrangements on a reasonable system, it might have been trusted to work of itself under the supervision of a Deputy Collector.

In thirteen Districts the arrear collections exceeded 90 percent but the current collections fell below that standard. The total amount of arrears barred by limitation was Rs. 10,8,535. To this sum Rs. 1,06,518, is contributed by Burdwan alone. It should be observed however that in the sum set down against Burdwan, is included an over-assessment to the amount of Rs. 21,726 which was reduced on objection.

The number of districts in which both current and arrear collections exceeded 90 per cent

declined from 12 in 1889-90 to 8 in 1890-91. In Singbhoom the percentage under both heads was 100. Darjeeling as usual had no arrears to collect, and realised 99·8 per cent of its current demand. Rungpur and Chittagong though heavy districts, having a large number of estates on their registers, collected a very large proportion of their cess demands, both current and arrear, and the Resolution observes that there is no reason why a similar standard should not be worked up to throughout the whole province.

The working of the Certificate Procedure shows general improvement during the past year. As usual the number of certificate cases instituted was smallest in Chotanagpur and largest in the Burdwan, Patna and Presidency Divisions. With reference to the important subject of the valuation and revaluation of estates and tenures for cess purposes, the Resolution remarks unfavourably on the practice followed by the Board, to notice in their report only those cases in which operations have been brought to a conclusion, and a completion report submitted to the Board. It is the valuations in progress, which, according to the resolution, more especially should be brought to the notice of Government. It is therefore wished by the Lieutenant-Governor that, in future, Reports submitted by the Board of Revenue should contain a separate statement of the revaluations undertaken for entire districts and carried on by a special officer, and the revaluations of certain estates only conducted by the ordinary district staff. In this statement should be entered the increase estimated to be attained when the revaluation was sanctioned, the progress made during the year, the amount of work remaining to be done at the close of the year, and the date when it is expected to be completed.

Comparing the gross rental of Bengal for 1890-91 as calculated from the returns under the Cess Act with the gross rental ascertained on the same basis when the Road Cess was first introduced, we find that within the last fifteen years, there has been a net increase of 11·3 per cent in the rental,—an increase which corresponds pretty closely with the growth of the population during these fifteen years. This steady increase in the valuation of land, in spite of recent restrictions on enhancements of rent, is attributed by the Board to increase of rent, to greater care in ascertaining rentals, and to the valuation of a vast number of rent free tenures which previously escaped notice.

THE BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

AS announced before, the first meeting of the Bengal Provincial Conference was held at the British Indian Association rooms on Thursday, the 29th October. Delegates from different parts of the Province were present and took part in the proceedings, although owing to out-break of fever in the Mafassil and other causes the attendance was not as large as might have been expected or desired. The Rev. A. Baton Begg, Principal of the London Missionary Society's Institution at Bhowanipur, was voted to the chair and as Babu Kally Churn Bannerjee said in moving his election, a more genuine, sympathetic and devoted friend of the natives of Bengal, could not be found. Mr. Begg in assuming his presidential duties said that he took it as an honour, because he felt that the object of the Conference was a worthy one. That object was the promotion of a good understanding and good feeling between the Government and the governed. If, therefore, this was the object for which they had met, from different towns and districts in this great province, he could imagine no reason why they should not lawfully join together in Conference. In all the questions which lay before them, there was need for moderation. They needed, in dealing with these questions, the best experience in municipal, in industrial, and in economic questions, which citizens possessed; and he was sure that the points they had before them would be best served in proportion as they exercised patience and forbearance in dealing with the intricate problems. The presence of feelings which would mislead was always to be deprecated. They must, therefore, see that they retained the stronger and *longer arm of the lever within their reach—that was the moral lever. Let men feel that their* judgments were tempered with prudence, their enthusiasm was guided by intelligence, and then their cause was sure to prosper.

The first resolution was moved by Babu Mahendranath Roy, Vice-Chairman of the Howrah District Board, and was to the following effect :—

"That this Conference while deeply grateful for the great boon of Local Self-Government would invite the attention of the Government to the need of curtailing the powers of control especially in relation to the Budget and the allotment of educational grants which are at present vested in executive officers of Government, and the exercise of which powers seriously interferes with the independeuce of local bodies, and deprives them of an adequate sense of reponsibility; and the Conference would in this respect strongly recommend the re-introduction of the provision which existed under the former Municipal Law vesting the power of revising the estimate in His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor instead of in the Commissioner of the Division; and that pending the modification of the law as above indicated the Conference would earnestly pray for the issue of an executive order confining the control exercised by Commissioners to the major heads in the Budget, leaving members of the local bodies entire freedom in the management of details. That in reference to District Boards this Conference is of opinion that the time has come when the experiment of allowing selected District Boards to elect their own Chairmen may with advantage be tried."

The mover detailed the evils arising out of frequent interference by executive authorities and deprecated the reduction of educational grant, which some officers were extremely fond of now-a-days. He was seconded by Babu Pratap Chandra Mukerjee of Barisal, Editor of the *Kashipurnibasi*, who spoke to the resolution in Bengali. The motion was supported by Mr. Beglar and Babu Surendranath Bannerjee and was unanimously carried. The latter who is intimately connected with the Barrackpur Municipality, gave instances of needless and vexatious interference by executive officers in direct opposition to the views of the local bodies and of insults offered to the Chairmen of such bodies.

Mr. J. M. Beglar moved the second resolution, which was as follows :—

"That this meeting desires to place on record its protest against the proposal which is being discussed to exempt all Volunteers from the income-tax; and the Conference is of opinion that such a proposal is not only opposed to the principle of volunteering, but will be open to the further objection of having the appearance of class legislation."

He said that if Volunteers were exempted from the income-tax, they would be converted into a paid body and would not then be Volunteers. It was an inducement held out by Government for others to come forward and become volunteers. If Natives were also allowed to volunteer there could be no objection to it, but as the Government prevents Natives of India from becoming Volunteers, he did not see why one class should be handicapped and another obtain a premium. It was a class legislation of the worst type, and would cause irritation in the minds of the people who are prohibited from becoming Volunteers. Babu Mohtnimohan Chatterjee seconded the resolution, which was supported by Babu Koylas Chunder Sen. Mr. A. Chowdhuri, although agreeing with the resolution, thought, the discussion of this matter should be postponed. The exemption of Volunteers from the income-tax must, he thought be done by legislation, and that too by Imperial legislation. When, therefore, such a Bill was put forward, it would be time for them to consider and discuss the question. Babu Surendranath Banerjee pointed out that the exemption might be made by a mere resolution, which would never see the light of day till the thing was done, and any interference on their part would then be useless. Mr Chowdhuri having withdrawn his objection, the resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The third resolution was moved by Babu Bepin Chunder Pal and ran as follows :—

"That having regard to the facilities of communication which have now been established between Assam and these Provinces, this Conference is of opinion that the time has come when both Act XIII of 1859, and Act I of 1882, may, with advantage, be repealed, and the supply of labour to the tea gardens in Assam may be regulated by the natural law of supply and demand, subject only to such regulations regarding sanitary and other matters in the gardens, and during the transit of coolies as may be deemed necessary."

Babu Bepin Chunder Pal said that the question had now passed the stage of enquiry and that repeal of the Acts might very well be asked for. He quoted the authority of old and experienced planters in showing that free labour was very much better for all concerned. The resolution which was seconded by Rai Jotendranath Chowdhury, of Taki, and supported by Babu Kailash Chunder Sen was also unanimously carried. Mr. Beglar wished to have some verbal alterations which would have the effect of doing away with Government interference in sanitary and other matters. But this being against the sense of the meeting he withdrew his objections.

The fourth resolution was proposed by Babu Koylash Chunder Sen, and was seconded by Babu Joykally Mukerjee, and supported by Babu Suresh Chunder Roy and others :—

That this Conference is of opinion that the administration of Civil Justice in these Provinces urgently requires amelioration in respect of

(*a*) Court fees and process levied upon litigants.
(*b*) The number of Judicial Officers.
(*c*) Qualifications for Civil Court Ameens.
(*d*) Pay, prospects of the subordinate ministerial agency.
(*e*) The encouragement of a resort to arbitration.

II.

THE second meeting of the Conference was held on Friday and was presided over by Babu Narendranath Sen. The President in taking the chair said :—

I think, you will all agree with me when I say that the present Provincial Conference derives its importance at once from the recent proposal of the British Committee of the Indian National Congress that individual and local grievances should receive greater attention at our hands, as likely to have immediate effect on local officers and administrations. A Provincial Conference deals best with such questions, and if it always connects its proceedings with care, wisdom, and moderation, it cannot fail to be a valuable auxiliary to good government in this country. Conferences of the kind have, therefore, their special value, which ought not to be lost sight of especially at the present moment, when the scheme of decentralisation is in full operation, and the system of Provincial Contracts has come into vogue. At the Provincial Conference, we have chiefly to consider provincial questions and some of them are of a most important character, in which we are immediately concerned, as the Resolutions that will be brought forward to-day for your acceptance will show. For instance, what questions can be of greater moment, and of more direct concern to us in Lower Bengal than those of Village Sanitation, Embankments and the Village Chowkidari System? The two most important subjects that will engage your attention to-day are Village Sanitation and Embankments, bearing a close connection with each other. More than one-half of Lower Bengal has been depopulated by the ravages of malarious fever, and is still suffering terribly from them. But if fever has caused suffering and death among us, floods from the breach of embankments have not done less so. Thus fever and floods at the same time have contributed to add to the miseries of unhappy Bengal. They have actively helped the continued work of destruction among us. Science alone can put a stop to such work of destruction. The natural drainage of the country has in course of time, in consequence, especially the opening of canals, roads, and railways, become obstructed and the water-supply from contact with subsoil drainage has become impure. Science alone can save us from the ravages both of fever and floods. We have an expensive machinery of administration. We have a Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, and a Sanitary Board too with an efficient Engineer to help it in its work. With the help of science, fever and floods ought not to trouble us any more. We need not lose heart when we think how much has science accomplished to improve the health of the city of Calcutta. This city was formerly a nursery of fever, and a Fever Hospiral had to be especially established here for the treatment of fever of all kinds. Improved drainage and a supply of pure drinking water have not only lessened considerably the havocs of fevers, but also those of cholera, and Calcutta has come to be regarded almost as a sanitarium in comparison to many of the villages and towns in the malaria-stricken Districts of Bengal. I do not think, there are any matters of greater importance which can engage the attention of the Local Government than Village Sanitation and Embankments. The calls of humanity demand that

the ruling authorities should not remain idle till they succeed in devising effectual means for improving village sanitation, and stopping the periodical inundations from the breach of embankments. A Lieutenant-Governor who when he lays down his office, can proudly say, that he has succeeded in alleviating a considerable portion of suffering of the people placed under his care, and in reducing death and desolation among them, whether arising from fevers or floods, will earn not only the eternal gratitude of a large number of his fellow creatures, but will also have the grace of Heaven.

The proceedings of the second day were much more interesting than those of the first, in so far as they were of a more practical nature. All the speakers, most of whom came from the Mafassil, brought to bear upon the subjects to which they respectively spoke, the knowledge and experience essential for their intelligent discussion. We regret we cannot notice the proceedings at length but give the Resolutions and the names of the different speakers :—

1. That this Conference, while grateful to the Government for the appointment of the Police Commission with a view to enquire into the present condition of the Police in these Provinces, is of opinion that the reform of the Police is a matter of grave urgency, as indeed has been testified to by no less an authority than a late Viceroy of India, and that the reform should proceed from the following lines :—

(a) That District Superintendents be recruited partly by promotion from the ranks of Inspectors, and partly by the appointment of members of the Subordinate Excutive Service.

(*b*) That the office of Assistant Superintendent of Police be abolished.

(c) That higher qualifications in the case of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables be insisted upon, and that the pay of Sub-Inspectors and and Head Conatables be raised.

Moved by Babu Akshoy Churn Dass of Howrah, seconded by Babu Ganendra Chunder Roy Chowdhuri, of Diamond Harbour, and supported by Babu Bhobo Nath Bannerj, of Barackpur, Pandit Rakhal Chunder Tewary of Diamond Harbour, and Mr. A. Chowdhuri of Calcutta.

II. That this Conference gratefully recognises the expansion of the principle of Self-Government by the Village Chowkidari Bill under the consideration of the Bengal Government, and earnestly hopes that this Bill is but the earnest of its intention to deal effectually with the question of Police Reform, and this Conference would submit the following suggestions in connection with the Bill :—

(a) That the appointment of an officer, independent of the Punchayet, for the purpose of collecting the rates, and realizing them by distraint, when necessary, is liable to be attended with grave abuse, unless snch officer is placed under the control of the Punchayet and made responsible to them for his actions.

(*b*) That Police officers be prohibited, under penalty of dismissal from office, from employing Chawkidars in their private concerns or any duties, unconnected with the Police, as is provided by Section of Reg. XX of 1817.

(*c*) That with a view to attract really respectable men to serve as members of the Punchayet, their position should be rendered more independent than what is apparently contemplated under the Bill, which places them completely under the authority of the Magistrate who may ratify or not, as he thinks best, the election of a member of the Punchayet or may remove him from office, or may or may not act according to any of their recommendations the Punchayet having little or no independent authority in matters in which they are supposed to have a voice.

(*d*) That certain time be given to defaulters for payments of arrears of Chowkidari rates.

(*e*) That objections to payment of arrears of rate, under section 36 of the Bill, be heard and disposed of by the Punchayet, power being reserved for the Magistrate to revise the decision of the Punchayet.

(*f*) That the power of discharging a Punchayet be vested in the Commissioaer.

(*g*) That as it is proposed to deprive Chowkidars of their *Chakran* lands, this Conference is of opinion that permanent interest be secured to the Chowkidars in the lands, of which they may be so deprived, by way of compensation for deprsvation of their vested rights, and in view of the fact that they have been in hereditary possession of such lands, and sn many cases have spent money to make improvements therein.

(*h*) That the Commissioner's order, demarcating Chowkidars' *Chakran* lands be not a bar to a civil suit in respect of such lands by any of the parties affected by such order.

Moved by Rai Jotindra Nath Roy Chowdhuri, M. A, of Taki, seconded by Babu Mohini Mohun Chatterji of Calcutta, and supported by Babu Bhoyrab Chunder Dass of Noakhali.

III. That having regard to the fearful loss of life, due to malarious fever and other preventible diseases, as testified to by the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, this Conference is of opinion that no further time should be lost in at once taking up this all-important question of sanitation, and that a supply of pure water and an effective drainage system represent the great sanitary needs of the Province. That the Conference while it is deeply grateful to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor for the interest which His Honour's Government has evinced in the general question of sanitation especially in reference to the extention of the supply of pure water, would earnestly appeal to His Honour to take in hand a system of drainage for the whole Province and this Conference is of opinion that it should be dealt with as a provincial question, be carried out by and under the superintendence of Government, the local bodies being called upon to contribute according to the measure of their resources and the benefits reaped by them, the Government paying money out of Provincial Funds, when Local bodies are too poor to make the contribution.

Further, the Conference being of opinion that the cause of sanitation is completely dependent upon the growth of sound ideas among the people, appeals to the public bodies in the country to undertake the task of disseminating such ideas by the publication of popular tracts and by such other means as to them may seem advisable.

Moved by Dr. K. G. Sircar, of Calcutta, seconded by Babu Bhaba Nath Bannerji of Barrackpur, supported by Babu Srikant Sen of Mymensing and Babu Shama Churn Bannerji of Diamond Harbour and Dinagepur.

IV. That for the satisfactory and efficient administration of Criminal Justice in these Provinces, this Conference is of opinion that the true remedy lies in the extension to the Moffusil of the system which prevails in the administration of the Presidency Towns, and which has been attended with such admirable results, *viz.*, the seperation of judicial and executive functions.

Moved by Mr. A. Chaudhuri, of Calcutta, seconded by Babu Hem Chunder Roy, of Calcutta, and supported by Pandit Prannath Saraswati of Calcutta, and Babu Tincowri Ghose of Uluberiah.

V. That this Conference is of opinion that the present policy of Government in relation to embankments is inconsistent with the policy it has hitherto invariably followed, in maintaining and constructing embankments, and that it would, therefore, respectfully urge on the Government the desirability of taking such measures as it may be desired to take for the safety and well-being of the people, living under the protection of these embankments.

Moved by Babu Jogesh Chunder Sing of Dinagepur and seconded by Bsbu Mathura Nath Maitra of Faridpur, and supported by Babu Shama Churn Bannerji, of Diamond Harbour and Dinagepur.

VI.—That in view of the hardship and injustice, involved by some of the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, this Conference is of opinion that the Act be amended in the following respects :—

(a) That the cases under the Act be heard and decided by the Judge without Assessors.

(*b*) That such cases be made appealable in the same way as other cases.

(*c*) That parties be exempted from payment of Court-fees in contesting Collector's awards.

Moved by Pandit Rakhal Chunder Tewary of Diamond Harbour, and seconded by Babu Kailash Chunder Sen, of Dacca.

VII. That copies of the foregoing Resolutions together with a copy of the Note written by Babu Baikuntnath Sen of Berhampur on Embankments be submitted to the Government for its favourable consideration :—

Moved by Maharaj-Kumar Benoy Krishna, and seconded by Rai Krishna Chunder Roy.

VIII. That the following gentlemen do form Standing Committee of the Provincial Conference, with power to add to their number, with Mr. J. Ghosal and Babu Surendranath Bannerji as Secretaries and Babu Mohini Mohun Chatterji as Assistant Secretary. [Here the names of the members of the Committee follow.]

Moved by Pandit Prannath Saraswati and seconded by Babu Tincowri Ghose.

IX:—That the next Conference be held during the next Dusserah vacation.

WE gladly quote in conclusion what the *Indian Daily News* says on the Conference, while generally disagreeing with its conclusions. The tone is sympathetic. Our contemporary says :—

The Provincial Conference now sitting at the British Indian Association Rooms represents a sensible idea. An annual gathering of gentlemen interested in public affairs for the purpose of comparing notes as to their experiences in the different parts of Bengal from which they come, and of bringing formally to notice of the Government by discussion and resolution any particulars in regard to which legislative or administrative reform is popularly desired, provides a medium for the expression of public feeling that deserves to be treated with respectful consideration. In view of the circumstances of India, with the public life of England as a model, and with English education, it is natural that intelligent Native gentlemen should believe in the power of the public voice and its claim to a respectful hearing, it is a good idea in itself and capable of rendering a real public service by helping to keep the Government informed of the feeling in the districts, and how administrative measures and methods are viewed by the people. The Bengal Provincial Conference has preferred a claim to respectful attention at the outset this year by electing for its President, not only a European—there are Europeans capable of proving as mischievous and indiscreet in such a position as any Native agitator—but a gentleman with so sensible an idea of what the Conference ought to be and to do as was expressed by the Rev. Mr. Begg. If the gentlemen assembled in conference will bring to bear on the questions they discuss special knowledge founded on intelligent observation of how things work in their respective districts, and will avoid oratorical hysterics, their debates and their resolutions will deserve attention and will not fail to carry weight. The Government, the Press, and the general public may all learn something from the intelligent discussion of affairs, and particularly of administrative questions, by men of education and practical experience who have given special attention to the subjects discussed.

Latest News and Notes.

TO-DAY is the authorised Government holiday for *Kalipuja*. As in the case of *Sandhipuja*, there has been some difference of opinion this year as to when the *Kalipuja* is to be performed. Some performed it last night, while others performed it night before last.

IN Dalhousie-Square only lamp and telegram posts have been shifted from beyond the tram lines. But the case is just as bad as before in Bentinck Street and Chitpur Road and it is a wonder that more accidents do not occur. We trust the matter will receive prompt attention.

THE Kidderpur Docks have at last been put to practical use. Two vessels were taken in last week for cleansing, painting and overhauling purposes.

THE Shambazar Musjid cases are still dragging their slow length at the Alipur Sessions. They are, however likely to be over soon.

MR. JUSTICE NORRIS is expected to preside at the next Criminal Sessions of the High Court, which commence on the 30th instant. The Dacca Bribery case, and the Imperial Diamond case will be on the board. An exact model of the subject matter of the latter case is to be seen at Messrs Cooke and Kelvey's show-rooms. It is stated that Mr. Jacob pays Mr. Inverarity Rs. 3,000 a day. This is much more than that Mr. Woodroffe gets.

IT is stated that on Sir Alfred Croft's taking leave, Mr. H. H. Risley will act as his *locum tenens*. This is hardly likely. The Education Department is sure to resent this though there are and have been Civilian Directors of Public Instruction in other parts of India.

WE are informed that Messrs Bird and Co's Gobra incenerator has not been stopped for good. It has been only suspended as there is no further experimental use.

WE are glad to learn that on Mr. Nolan's transfer to the Commissionership of the Rajshahye Division, Mr. C. E. Buckland will be confirmed in the appointment of Secretary to the

Government of Bengal in the General and Revenue Departments, in which he is now officiating. Mr. C. W. Bolton will succeed him permanently in the office of Senior Secretary to the Board of Revenue. Mr. Buckland has, during the short time he has been in office shown himself to be a thoroughly worthy and capable Secretary, and we congratulate him on his appointment.

WE are extremely glad to learn that His Highness the Maharaja of Durbhunga is now decidedly better. There is not, we are assured, the slightest reason for anxiety.

THE *Mirror's* vocabulary is large as its information is accurate, its knowledge extensive and its inferrences all correct. Patriotic and idiotic, according to it, are synonymous terms ; but it is unanimously believed that there is no more patriotic a paper than the *Mirror* and no more patriotic an Indian gentleman than its amiable editor. He has had some balm laid latterly on his wounded spirit, which has cleared up his vision remarkably.

WE owe an apology to Pandit Rajanikanta Gupta for not noticing his *Bhismacharita* earlier. The book has been written in a clear and lucid style and in forcible language. Much scholarship has been displayed in linking the fragments of the superhuman character of the immortal hero of Mahabharat together and the life and doings of the Grand Old Man have been described in a manner that does great credit to the author. It will serve well for a first class Bengali text book in our Upper Primary and Middle Class schools and we feel no hesitation in recommending it.

THE report that the Hon'ble Pandit Ajodyanath, Joint General Secretary of the Indian National Congress, and not the Hon'ble Mr. Subramania Iyer, will preside at the Nagpur Congress, is not correct. The question of presidency is still under the consideration of the Nagpur Reception Committee and has not yet been finally decided. Constituencies are reminded that delegates should be appointed as early as possible and timely intimation should be sent to the Reception Committee in order to enable them to make their preparations.

THE Municipality is always wanting in a sense of fitness of things. Before the High Court offices and Attorney's offices had closed, the Hastings Street was blocked up for the purposes of repair much to public inconvenience. The repairs of the neighbouring Streets were then dropped as if out of deference to public opinion. As soon as however the Attorneys' offices have opened and the Court offices are about to open, the Old Post Office Street comes in for repairs causing greater annoyance and inconvenience if possible. The same thing applies to the Road facing the Small Cause Court. Some sympathetic consideration ought to be shown to the public in these matters. Footpaths of streets repaired or about to be repaired are moreover generally strewn about with hillocks of rubbish for a long time, which is a source of great danger to predestrians on dark nights.

THE Home Office buildings are complete and ready for occupation. Government Place West, is now therefore one massive pile of red brick and terra cotta. The supply of the latter by the way seems to have suddenly run short, for a portion of the south eastern face of the new buildings is without any decoration, which lends it a bald and a somewhat incongrous appearance. The neatly carved main entrance to the East, is however much admired.

THE High Court has very properly set aside the improper order of the Magistrate of Sarun that not more than two pleaders or *muktears* can be engaged in a case. The litigant is at liberty to engage as many as he chooses.

THE Commissioners of the South Barrackpur Municipality has applied for extension in South Barrackpur of the provisions of Part X. of the Bengal Municipal Act of 1884, relating to the regulation of markets. The application is under consideration, and it is to be hoped that it will be granted. The rate-payers wish it and the extension of the provisions of Part IX. of the Act referring to the construction and cleansing of latrines. Some individuals may be opposed to the extensions asked for. But this we are sure will not affect the determination of the question.

MR. C. KIERNANDER of the Calcutta Customs Office has detected a most outrageous fraud. It seems that spurious shawls were imported by foreign firms from Germany, and were then handed over to Kashmiris and Cabulis who washed them in a manner, making them resemble the genuine Kashmir articles. The shawls were then sent into the market and were sold as Kashmir shawls at from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 per pair, their actual value being Rs. 10, Rs. 15 per pair. The Collector of Customs has fined the importers heavily and had the trade marks removed. Mr. Kiernander is to receive two-thirds of the fines realised, which will be very well earned.

PERSISTENT rumours have been afloat for some time that the Viceroy, who is not in good health, will resign sometime next year. So far as can be ascertained there is not the slightest truth in this rumour and there is every chance of His Excellency serving out his term.

HIS Honor the Lieutenant-Governor arrived at Bankipur on the 27th October. It being too late in the evening, the Municipal address was presented the next day. In reply to it His Honor said :—

It was unfortunately his fate here, as it was in most other places which he visited, to receive many requests which he was unable to grant. He was asked to hand over a certain fund to Municipal requirements, but as the money had been collected distinctly for the Industrial School, it would not be right to divert what had been collected for one very important purpose to any other, however important this other purpose might be. He had, however, no doubt that the Municipality would be able to raise a loan to enable them to carry out this very desirable object, and he also had no doubt that they would experience no very considerable difficulty in repaying it in time. Another matter referred to in the address was that an arrangement had been come to for the introduction of gas. The proper lighting of the streets of a town was a very important affair and highly conducive to the comfort and safety of persons during dark nights, and his Honor was really glad to see that attention of the Municipal Commissioners had been directed to this object, more specially since the poorer classes of the people would derive an equal benefit. Some mention had also been made of the water-supply of the town. It was a question which was always more or less before him, and he was glad to hear that their attention had been directed to this most important reform. His Honor looked upon the supply of good and pure water as one of the greatest benefits a town could enjoy.

HIS Honor then went on to say :—

Another matter which his Honor saw with great regret was the diminution of the School grant. He would therefore have to ask them to very seriously consider how great a duty lay upon them who were bound to supply primary instruction to boys of a schoolgoing age, and as far as possible to girls also. His Honor did not think that this was a point which had been sufficiently impressed upon Municipalities. This was the first opportunity he had taken to express his views on the subject. The Government spent something like ten lakhs a year on the District Board, but Sir Alfred Croft was impressed with the idea that more should be expended. The case of the town rested with the Municipality, and he should be glad if he succeeded in inducing them to take these duties upon themselves. So far as financial considerations were concerned, he did not think there was anything unreasonable in what he asked them to do. It should be the aim and object of all Municipalities to provide suitable schools for children of a certain age, and it was only primary education which they ought to provide. Secondary education was not the duty of the Municipality. Primary education was a great necessity, in fact it was as essential as food and drink.

We are very glad the Lieutenant-Governor has thus spoken out. The blame of reducing educational grants does not always rest with the Municipalities. Divisional Commissioners who interfere too much with the Budgets, often cut down the educational grants and his Honor's observations will henceforth have due effect on them.

THE following is the Revenue and Agricultural Memorandum on the rice crop in Bengal, Lower Burmah and Madras for the season 1891-92 :—

The unseasonable weather in Bengal and the want of rain in Madras have affected the area and condition of the crop in those provinces. The winter crop sowings up to September in Bengal are reduced by over 1,100,000 acres, or 3½ per cent. below last year's area, and by over 2,800,000 acres, or 8 per cent. below the estimated normals acreage of 34,400,000 acres. On the other hand, it i estimated that the area under *bhadoi* or rainy weather crops, which consist largely of rice, exceeds the area of the provious year by nearly a million acres in Madras. The acreage sown up to 15th September this year is recorded as about 2½ millions, or 20 per cent. below the normal. In Lower Burma, on the other hand, favourable weather has produced an enlargement of area under rice, amounting to 200,000 acres, or 5 per cent. over last year's area, and about 600,000, or 17 per cent, over the normal. Conditions and prospects in Madras show that, at the date of the report, except in the West Coast, Northern Deltas, and Ganjam, the crops were generally poor, but improving. With the recent rain in Bengal a 13-anna crop is anticipated, but the outturn depends to a large extent upon the character of the rainfall during the present month, which has so far not been favourable for the winter crop. The outturn of the *bhadoi* crop has been satisfactory. The crop in the ten rice-growing districts of Lower Burma is everywhere good.

The general prospect, however, as we said last week, is gloomy on the whole and precautionary measures taken from the baginning will not be useless. Continuous drought is seriously affecting the outturn in Assam also. If no rain falls soon the season will come to an end and a very short crop must be expected. The outlook is bad and planters generally are anxious as to the final results.

A LETTER appears in the *Times* from Professor Vambery, the renowned Eastern traveller, in which he says he believes that the object of the Russian movements on the Pamirs is to facilitate their approach to the Indian frontier by tampering with the inhabitants of Gilgit, Yassen, and Chitral, and by creating trouble in Northern Kashmir. The result, he thinks, will be a new delimitation of the Russo-Afghan Frontier. *The Novoe Vremya* states that the Amir has sent an embassy to Russia to conclude a Russo-Afghan commercial treaty. Information has reached Pekin, that a Chinese Frontier official in Central Asia met a Russian force descending the Ali Plateau near Murghabi. He protested on behalf of his Government against the entry into Chinese territory. The Russians nevertheless continued their advance, and afterwards divided their force, part going to Alichur, and the remainder in the direction of the Great Pamir.

COMPLAINTS reach us again regarding the barbarous manner in which dogs are belaboured to death in Calcutta Streets. The ghastly sight presented is very trying to weak nerves and the whole operation is perfectly needless. Surely some improved method might be found. It is suggested that the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Pinjrapole should, if possible, erect and maintain a lethal chamber for the destruction of stray and wild dogs. In Beneras and other places dogs are captured and put in a box after which they are taken to some place outside the city for slaughter. There is no reason why something like this should not be done in Calcutta.

THE *Indian Daily News* publishes the following Hydrabad telegram :—

Sirdar Diler Jung Abdul Haq is expected here in a couple of days. It is rumoured that the Nizam's Government intend withdrawing the case brought against the Sirdar in the Bombay High Court, as, after recent experience, the Nizam does not like to be cross-examined again. Some officials are also reluctant to wash dirty linen in Court. The Nizam's presenting a garden house just after the Diamond Commission to Mushtaq Hossein, Revenue Secretary and *defacto* Minister, is the subject of talk. In the course of the last eleven months Mushtaq's salary has been more than doubled, and it now is Rs. 3,500. Mushtaq Hossein got some promotions with retrospective effect, the result being the reception of large amounts as arrears of pay. It would be interesting to know the amount of presents received by Mustaq up to date,

and the so-called valuable services for which he gets these presents and promotions.

Upon this and other matters connected with the diamond case on which the *Indian Daily News* has been writing strongly, the *Amritabazar Patrika* observes: 'It appears that the telegrams which the *Indian Daily News* sent to the Nizam and which were filed by Mr. Woodroffe in the Hyderabad diamond case, have created good deal of curiosity. This is perhaps because our contemporary has taken an unusual interest in this case on behalf of the accused, altogether forgetting that, though a professed friend of Mussalmans, he had not hesitated to throw the Nizam overboard for the sake of Mr. Jacob.' The *Daily News* rejoins upon this :—"Our favour extended so far as to seek to have justice done to him. We desire at least fair-play for him as we would for any other man." This we are afraid is outside journalistic duties, for courts of law are open to everybody. There is some talk, says the *Morning Post* of Allahabad, of an amicable settlement of the Imperial diamond case. It would be for the advantage of all concerned.

IT is proposed by the governing body of the Imperial Institute, London, to hold a special exhibition of metal work and pottery at the official opening of that Institute by Her Majesty the Queen-Empress in the summer of 1892. The Secretary of State for India has been requested by the President and Council of the Institute to take steps for obtaining from the several Indian provinces contributions to the proposed exhibition. It is suggested that any contributions suitable for permanent display in the collections which are to illustrate the industrial resources of India, received through the Local Governments and Administrations, should be assigned to the permanent collections to be represented at the Imperial Institute; and it is expressly stated that the specimens should be useful rather than ornamental, and should be small in size. Any consignments of Indian metal work and pottery that are contributed should be restricted to purely commercial exhibits. The Government will bear the cost of carriage to Calcutta of any articles that may be sent from any part of this Province, and of their freight from Calcutta to England. For the exhibits themselves, Sir Charles Elliott looks to the public spirit of local bodies and to the liberality of private persons. Any local bodies or private persons who may be willing to contribute specimens, are requested to communicate with the Under-secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Revenue Department.

THE Lieutenant-Governor did not allow the appeal of Serampur to go unheeded. Dr. Gregg was deputed to inspect the affected tracts and he is said to be "not altogether dissatisfied" with the steps taken by the Municipality there to prevent the spread of cholera. Something further is, however, evidently needed. Calcutta at the present moment is also suffering much from the ravages of cholera.

A NEW bastion has been erected to the south of Fort William. It successfully stood the test of steady cannonading on Wednesday morning.

THE *Madras Times*, commenting on Lord Wenlock's promise at Salem to consider the petition concerning the observance of caste in jails, says that the less the caste is observed the better. Punishment in such cases is, it is said, more deterrent. Indeed! Is there no means of effective punishment but by outcasting people which the *Madras Times* may not perhaps be aware is social death to a Hindu? Lord Wenlock will earn the gratitude of the Hindu public of India if His Excellency will do something for improvement of the existing state of affairs.

SIR JOSEPH PEASE'S opium victory has as yet led to no practical results and it is not likely that it will in the near future. It was an accident due to oversight on the part of Government, which has taken sufficient care since to strengthen its position. The House of Commons has caused to be re-published an excellent and exhaustive article on opium by Dr. George Watts in his Economic Dictionary, which deals with the question in its different phases and gives a full history of opium. With the members of Parliament better informed on the subject, Sir John Pease will not catch Government nodding a second time and it will be difficult for him to repeat the "Score." In the meantime the much-abused *Ganja* has found an apologist in Sir Charles Elliott, which has infuriated purists and it is seriously asked what the Purity Society will think of the situation. The Government makes a revenue by taxing articles which some people would have at any cost and while trying to keep down the consumption as much as possible though making the maximum profit, Government has to see to the quality of the stuff, as they are the monopolists. We hear arrangements have been made by the Government of India to procure a supply of the well-known Sissal Hemp plant for introduction into India.

A HIGHLY respectable Bengali lady has written a novel called *Navagram*, which we feel no hesitation in recommending to public attention. It is conceived on a new plan and a high moral tone pervades the work, which will strike the reader as differing from the general run of such works. It is written in a lucid yet forcible style, and does credit to the writer whose first attempt this is said to be. She will, we have no doubt, soon take her proper place in the rank of our lady writers. Some of the scenes which are taken from life, are singularly graphic and impressive.

THE announcement of transfer of Munsiffs and Sub-Judges at the fag end of the vacation has, as anticipated, caused serious inconvenience to many. Except in one or two isolated cases in which intimation had reached early and charge had been made over to the Sheristadar with the permission of the District Judge, charge yet remains to be made over and the officers concerned are at sea to make out whether they will have to go back to their old station to make over charge and then proceed to join their new appointment. In this event they will be entitled to the usual travelling allowance and a week's time for preparation, over and above the time that may be actually occupied in travelling. Many officers who had what is called vacation leave, unsuspicious of the impending transfers had gone to different places for change of air and have had to hurry back to Calcutta for the requisite information, without which they cannot safely proceed one way or the other. As they get only half pay during privilege leave, whether during the vacation they remain in their respective stations or go away, they naturally avail themselves of the vacation leave and do not care, nor are bound, to be at their stations. They will therefore be put to great loss if in deciding the question of travelling allowances these circumstances be not taken fully into consideration. They could not very well join their new appointments, of their own motion, as the Accountant-General under existing rules would without ceremony cut their pay for not having duly made over charge. The High Court offices, the Secretariat offices and the Accountant-General's offices are alike ignorant of the exact procedure that would have to be followed on this particular occasion and although isolated applications may have succeeded in getting some clue of what would have to be done, the bulk of officers have had to trust to their instincts, irrespective of consequences. In the case of those whose successors have not been appointed, for example the Small Cause Court Judges of Jessore, Krishnagore and Kustea, which have therefore been taken to be abolished, the officers could not very well go back to make over charge, for there would be none to receive it, unless it be the ministerial staff which have as yet been kept.

WE have received loud and repeated complaints from respectable inhabitants of the northern parts of Calcutta regarding the prostitute nuisance. The Police, since some deplorable cases, have with commendable promptitude removed the nuisance from the neighbourhood of schools. But there is no reason why other respectable neighbourhoods and public thoroughfares should not be rid of it. We would strongly appeal to Mr. Lambert and if necessary to the legislature, for needful redress. But as it stands, the law is sufficiently powerful to cope with some at least of the cases and we are sure Mr. Lambert will accede to public prayer if he can. The neighbourhood of public squares for example can be freed of the nuisance, it seems to us under the present law, and young people frequenting them of an evening should certainly not be permitted to have their morals undelibly tainted by scandalous spectacles. Take for instance the Beadon Square where hundreds of boys and young men go every evening and it is not pleasant to have the Square or its approaches overlooked by varandas, loaded with painted wickedness spread out for custom. The same thing may be said of Pathuriaghata Street, Prosunno Coomar Tagore's Street, Brajadulal's Street and other places where the cream of native society live and which are infested by these pests. If one has to put up with this state of things as a necessary evil, there is no reason why its scope should not be circumscribed as much as possible. Downright segregation would be desirable if possible, but so long as that is not undertaken, special localities and areas ought to be protected.

WE are very sorry that Mr. P. C. Laha's attempts on Saturday and Sunday before last to make a balloon ascent and a parachute descent were unsuccessful. Those who had paid entrance money were naturally dissatisfied and Mr. Laha assured them that the next time he makes an attempt he will admit them to the enclosure free of charge. It is not true, he writes, that his failures were due to oldness or leaky condition of his balloon. He lays the blame on the contractor who was to have manufactured hydrogene gas for him and whom he had trusted as he was Mr. Spencer's contractor on some occasions. We wish him better success next time.

M. RIBOT, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, replying to a question in the Chamber of Deputies, said that the position of France in Egypt was progressive, and her influence there was increasing. She had maintained all her ancient rights, and, if necessary, would demand a guarantee for the same. Referring to Egypt, he confirmed the assurance which he gave last week that France was willing to give guarantees that she would not attempt to supplant England in Egypt. The peace of Europe, he said, was better assured now than a few months ago, owing to the *rapproachment* between Russia and France, which was the result of a community of interests. M. Ribot stated that France firmly maintains her rights to the left bank of the river Mekong, dividing Annam from Siam, and also to the passage of the river.

THE *Indian Daily News* takes exception to our remarks that journalism in India is now at a discount and cares are needed for its protection and improvement. These sentiments which are perfectly straightforward and intelligible, are misunderstood, and our contemporary remarks :—"We are not awaer what are special difficulties at the present moment. The Press is in no peril so long as the conductors of it act reasonably. The prosecution in the *Bangabasi* case has not much changed the position. In one respect it has led to improvement. There is no doubt some modification of the tone of the Native Press, which really seemed to call for interference. The way in which some of the conductors wrote was becoming a peril to the freedom of the Press, and the Government were bound either to uphold the law as it stands in the Penal Code, or to make it more stringent. If it had been needful to do this latter, the Government could not have well made a distinction between different classes of papers. Having no desire for more stringency, we were

not anxious for a change of the law in the direction indicated. What our contemporary means by journalism in India being at a discount, and the need for most vigilant and watchful care for its protection and improvement, is not clear. The conductors thereof have it in their power to protect themselves by writing fairly and reasonably, and we imagine the work of improvement lies in the same direction. Journalists have nothing to fear so long as they are reasonable in their judgments and fair in their comments. Failing the faculty to so discharge their duties, journalists may well be at a discount and in need of the protection above invoked, or any other which may be available." Why should journalism be at a discount at the instance of the authorities only ? We certainly did not intend to convey nor entertain any such sentiments, though the authorities might have kindlier feelings towards it. But it is improvement of the kind suggested by the *Daily News* that we set most value at and the Press Association does the same thing. The Association must do its duty loyally and bravely withal if the object is to be gained and no amount of captious criticism should deter it from the path that it has chalked out for itself.

BABU Jagannath Saha of Baharampur has served Mr. Manisty, the local Magistrate, with a notice under Section 424 of the Civil Procedure Code, that he intends instituting a civil suit against him in the Subordinate Judge's Court at Berhampur to recover damages for insult, annoyance, injury, loss of reputation and illegal confinement and wrongful restraint and costs incurred to the extent of Rs, 5,100. Our readers will remember how Mr. Manisty sentenced Babu Jagannath Saha and his brother to 15 days' simple imprisonment and sent them to jail handcuffed, inspite of the Sessions Judge's order directing their release. The High Court on appeal condemned the Magistrate's high-handed proceedings and said that his conduct would be noticed departmentally. The Government also seems to have been addressed by the aggrieved for redress but to no purpose. Hence this suit, which promises to be full of interest and importance, if carried to the end.

CALCUTTA is promised a second Circus Company during the season. It is called the Harmston and Son's London Olympic Circus, Roman Hyppodrome and famous American Wild West Show and consists of Cow Boys, Mexicans, Indians, and Broncos. The company has arrived in Rangoon, and after a short stay there will come on to Calcutta.

THE local Government has sanctioned the bye-laws framed by the Municipality under the new Hackney Carriage Act. As we pointed out at the time, the bye-laws had been framed in a great hurry and did not at all meet public requirements. The first class carriages are to be "roomy, clean, easy running vehicles of a description superior in all respects to second class carriages. They may be of any approved pattern, such as Broughams, Landaus, Phaetons, Office Jaunts, &c. Each carriage must have a thoroughly good pair of lamps." This is all that could be desired and European criticism, which would be the most dangerous, will be effectively silenced. Second class carriages are to be "in a thoroughly fit and proper condition," whatever that may mean. Some minimum measurements have been given, which will give some clue to the registering officer as to what is "fit and proper." As regards third class carriages no measurements are given and the traveller will thank his stars if they are "clean and safe" Elaborate directions are given as to outside plates and numbering and much stress is laid upon height and fitness of horses, harness, coachman's and syce's uniform and everything else that lend a gala appearance. But nothing is said about inside plates, which in the case of third class carriages and palanquins are *non est* for the most part. Wicked Jehu of the third class refuses to ply by the hour the law notwithstanding and boldly removes the fare plate so that the ignorant may be imposed upon all the more easily. He has had his fare increased and it is of the utmost importance that he should be made to go by the *nirikh* and not at his own sweet *murji*. The bye-laws are wholly silent as to this, but we hope the executive authorities will not be equally reticent.

AN examination of candidates for appointment as Deputy Collectors and Deputy Magistrates and as Sub-Deputy Collectors will be held in Calcutta, in March next. Those who have passed the B. A. Examination of the Calcutta University, or who can produce satisfactory evidence of having received education up to a corresponding standard, will be admissible to the examination, provided they are not more than 25 years of age on the 1st March 1892, which limit will not be enforced in the case of candidates who are already gazetted officers of Government, and who satisfy the other conditions of eligibility. It is at present proposed to select 20 candidates for Deputy Collectorships and 10 for Sub-Deputy Collectorships. These will at first be appointed as probationers on salaries of Rs. 50 and Rs. 30 a month respectively. Ten of the probationers for Deputy Collectorships will be appointed from the first 10 candidates on the list, in order of merit ; and 10 will be selected by the Lieutenant-Governor either from those who are now Sub-Deputy Collectors, or from among those who have obtained a minimum of one-third of the total marks. From the remainder of those qualified by obtaining one-third of the marks, the Lieutenant-Governor will select ten more candidates as probationers for Sub-Deputy Collectorships.

THE earthwork of the Madras-Gudur section of the Madras-Bezwada Railway will be started as a relief work, in the event of the season continuing unfavourable. There is little sign of the case being otherwise unfortunately, though copious rain has fallen it has resulted in inundations. According to a recent telegram heavy floods have occurred at Vellore and twelve persons have been drowned, and several breaches have occurred on the Villapuram-Guntakal Railway.

THE *Statesman* writes intelligently about the proposed concession to Volunteers in the shape of a remission of Income Tax :—

It is difficult to believe that there can be any good foundation for the report referred to by a contemporary, that one of the proposed concessions to Volunteers in this country is a remission of the Income-tax. Not that we would be understood, by any means, to imply that such remission would be an extravagant *quid pro quo* for the sacrifices which many Volunteers make, but it seems to us that the concession would be objectionable on grounds of fiscal ethics, and besides it might give rise to a number of extremely awkward questions. It would be invidious, in the extreme, to confer the privilege of exemption from a general tax upon one particular class of Her Majesty's Indian subjects alone ; and as long as natives of India generally are excluded from serving as Volunteers, this would virtually be the effect of the concession. It will, perhaps, be said that the amount remitted would, in fact, be a payment made in return for services rendered ; and, in a sense, we admit this. But it would obviously be unfair and invidious to grant the option of thus compounding for the Income-tax to a particular class of the population only ; and we do not quite see what answer the Government, after making such a concession, could give, if a native, otherwise qualified, were to come forward and claim either to be allowed to volunteer or be exempted from the tax. But there are other considerations. If any boon is granted to Volunteers as such, the same boon, or a choice between equivalent boons, ought to be granted or offered to all Volunteers alike, whereas, in the case of a remission of Income-tax, the boon would vary within very wide limits, according to the means of the individual, being most in the case of those who would least need it and least in the case of those who would most need it How again, about the Volunteers who are not liable to Income-tax, and who would consequently derive no advantage from the remission? Might they not very reasonably demand an equivalent in some other form? And, if this were denied them, would there not be some risk that men not liable to the tax would come to feel that, as there was nothing for them to gain by volunteering, they might as well leave it alone?

The time for a general remission has come and matters must be brought to a head very soon irrespective of volunteering.

IN accordance to the provisions of the will of the late Dr. Bholanath Bose, two charitable dispensaries will be erected and maintained by Government at Barackpore and Mundalai in the District of Hoogly, out of the estate of the deceased donor. The income of the estate consisting of Government securities, is nearly 6,000 Rs. out of which a sum of Rs. 12,00 a year is payable to the widow of the deceased during her life and after her death to her sons jointly until the youngest, now 16 years old, attains the age of 30 years. Properties other than Government securities are to be sold off which is expected to fetch nearly Rs. 23,000, out of which Rs. 13,372 are to be spent upon erection of a dispensary and hospital at Barrackpore and Rs. 53669 upon that of an outdoor dispensary at Mundalai. Barrackpur being a more populous town and being the birth place of the charitable testator, two-thirds of the income of the estate will be devoted to the Barrackpur dispensary which will accommodate 12 male indoor patients nad 4 females besides two separate beds for infectious cases. An assistant surgeon on Rs. 150 a month will have charge of the dispensary and there will be besides a compounder, a dresser and an apprentice, a female nurse. The assistant surgeon will be required to attend Government servants on pay under Rs. 250 at their homes, which will be made a condition of his appointment. As his salary will take up half of the available funds, which, after payment of other establishment charges, will leave very little for medicines and diet, it would be desirable that the Government should make some contribution considering that the services of the Assistant Surgeon in charge will be utilised in other ways than in connection with the Dispensary. The medicines provided in the Budget will hardly suffice for indoor patients but with some Government contribution an out-door dispensary also might be maintained. The Mundalai Dispensary will have an out-door supervised by a Civil Hospital Assistant. The scales of establishment proposed are of course only provisional and may be reduced or raised as circumstances require.

THOSE who have found fault with the British Indian Association in connection with their "apparent apathy" regarding the proposal for Cadastral Survey will be interested to hear that the Bengal Provincial Conference which has just closed its Sessions had the matter placed before it for consideration at its preliminary meeting. The members present were, however, unanimous that without further information they could not possibly "take a leap in the dark." The "apparent apathy" of the Conference must therefore be agonising to people who rejoice at any opportuniny for agitation. The British Indian Association has for a long time been trying to collect information and has applied for copies of the correspondence on the subject, which have not yet been received. When published the correspondence will show the exact position which Government proposes to take up in this concern and the public will know what reasons may have induced Sir Charles Elliott to re-open a matter that had been given up by his predecessor in office.

MORE meetings have been held in Behar in condemnation of the proposal for cadastral survey. A Muzafferpur telegram, dated October 26, says :—

At a meeting held yesterday it was resolved that the proposed Cadastral Survey in Behar is unnecessary, uncalled for, and inopportune at a cost of over one and three quarter crores, the burden of which Behar can under no circumstances bear. The measure is calculated to stir up litigation and ill-feeling between landlords and tenants.

A Bankipur telegram dated the same day says :—

A public meeting of zemindars and ryots, held yesterday at Arrah, unanimously adopted a memorial to Government to abandon the project of a Cadastral Survey, and it was resolved to request the Behar Landholders' Association to move in the matter.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN, speaking at Sunderland lately violently attacked Mr. Gladstone's policy, and declared that his return to power would replunge Ireland into a state of anarchy. It would be, he said, disastrous to the foreign

policy of Great Britain, and probably alienate the Triple Alliance. In well informed circles the conviction is said to be strong that Mr. Gladstone will come into power at no distant date.

THE City Theatre is keeping up its performances with commendable energy and some new pieces have been put on board. It expects to have its pavilion shortly and with a local habitation its permanence will be well secured, for it has made a name already.

A MEETING of the Bengal Industrial Conference was held at the British Indian Association rooms on Saturday. Mr. P. N. Bose of the Geological Department was in the chair and delegates from different districts of Bengal, who had attended the Provincial Conference, were present besides several experts. The discussion had reference to various industrial questions, some of which were:—

(1) The Industrial Survey of the whole Province, as a perliminary step to effectual measures being taken for the development of the various indigenous trades and manufactures in different districts. (2) Technical Education. (3) The encouragement of indigenous manufactures, especially in relation to Lord Ripon's Resolution on the subject. (4) How best to promote the joint-stock system in this country, in connection with industrial undertakings, and the feasibility of joint-stock organizations.

The Chairman and Mr. T. N. Mukerjee read two very instructive papers which dealt with several questions from a practical point of view. The Conference adopted the following resolutions:—

The first Resolution was moved by Mr. T. N. Mukherji, which was as follows:—"That an Industrial Association be at once established for the promotion of the industries of Bengal." He said that it was within the present year that they made an attempt to establish such an institution, but were not quite successful, probably because the importance of the subject had not then been presented before the minds of the people in a sufficiently attractive form. The subject, however, was an important one, because there was a great struggle for life. It was time, therefore, to form a central body which should gather knowledge on the subject of the industrial enterprise, not only of this country, but of all parts of the world, and disseminate that knowledge among their countrymen, and also advise centres to give practical effect to the knowledge obtained, and also to give practical training in the industrial world. Without a central body and without a head that knowledge would fail. It was for this reason that he proposed this Resolution. The speaker then went into details about the usefulness of several industries that the people of this country should learn, such as the curing of fish, dyeing, carpentry, &c.

Pundit Prannath Saraswati seconded the Resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Babu Mohini Mohun Chatterji moved that the following gentlemen do form the General Committee of the Association:—*President*—Rajah Peary Mohun Mukerji; *Vice-Presidents*—Hon'ble Justice Guru Dass Bannerji, Babus Behary Lall Pyne, Norendro Nath Sen, Mr. M. Ghose, Dr. Mahendra Lal Sirkar. and Babu Sitanath Roy. *Treasurer*—Babu Nobin Chand Boral, *Secretaries*—Mr. P. N. Bose, Mr. T. N. Mukharji, and Rai Jotendra Nath Rai Chowdhry. [Here came the names of the office-bearers for the ensuing year.]

Babu Mohendra Nath Roy seconded the Resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Babu Surendra Nath Bannerji then moved that an Industrial Conference be held next year to receive the report of the Association, and to transact such other business as may be laid before it, the Secretaries of the Industrial Association convening the Conference.

Babu Akshoy Chunder Dass seconded the Resolution, which was carried unanimously.

AS will be seen from an advertisement elsewhere Mr. Robert Hotz has, in conjunction with Mr. W. W. Baker, late of Messrs Bourne and Shephard, opened a Studio on a grand scale, which, we trust, will soon ingratiate itself into the favor of the nobility and gentry of the country. Mr. Hotz's name is a sufficient guarantee for excellent work.

Correspondence.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

London, October 9, 1891.

POLITICAL SITUATION.

As I am writing the news of an event which has startled the whole of "Greater Britain" and America and will attract attention even in Continental Europe, is being eagerly discussed to the exclusion of every other topic. This is the death of Mr. Parnell, which has happened so suddenly and unexpectedly that its effect upon the position of political parties can hardly yet be estimated. With the exception of the death of Mr. Gladstone under such sudden circumstances no other event could have happened so completely startling to politicians of all parties. What will be its effect is the question which every body is asking and this is of more importance than the different expressions of opinion upon the personal character and career of Mr. Parnell. He had become the most bitterly hated by antagonists and the most enthusiastically admired by supporters of all even in public life, and though there is more restraint upon hostile expressions now, there is not so much of that softening of feeling to be observed as is usual when death steps in between the antagonisms of partisans. Exept upon this question of the future nothing is being said upon any point of the Irish controversy which has not been familiar any time since 1886. With the exeption of one or two expressions of opinion as to the effect of this death upon the prospects of the Nationalist parties in Ireland there is hardly anything calling for remark. An interview which Mr. Justin Mccarthy, who has been the head of the Anti Parnellite party since the famous schism, has had with a press representative will explain what probably may be taken as a likely view of the situation. In reply to the question of what would be the immediate political effect of Mr. Parnell's death, he said—"It is impossible to tell, the sad event having come upon me so suddenly; but I hope the effect will be—I trust it will—that we shall now drop all controversy and become a united party and work together for the common good. There will I am sure be one universal feeling of regret among Irishmen in Ireland and everywhere at Mr. Parnell's death. All feeling of passing hostility will certainly be swallowed up completely in that regret. Some of the men who were most devoted to Mr. Parnell will probably retire from political life now. But I hope most of them will come and act with u. again." In reply to the question how would Mrs Parnell's death affect Home Rule Mr. McCarthy was very sure that nothing could harm that cause "that is perfectly safe," said he, "as safe as mortal foresight can suggest."

Mr. Chamberlain, who if not the nominal hand of the Liberal Unionists is its most effective representative, has also expressed himself upon the situation though like Mr. McCartley he says that the suddenness of the event hardly allows people to think of its effects. With some hesitation in reply to his questioner, who asked him what effect the death very likely to have upon the political situation, he said he thought the Parnellite Party might be considered dead, as the Boulanger faction might be said to have died in France with its leader. Any effort to continue its struggles under a new leader would be in vain because Parnellism has existed during the last few months solely because of the strong individuality of Mr. Parnell. It is almost certain he would have been defeated at the general election. "The Priests," he continned "were against him, and they hold, I fear, the ruling power in Ireland. If Mr. Parnell ever pressed a chance of restoring himself to the leadership of a United Irish Party it lay in the future, after the introduction of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Pull. He might have deemed such a measure unsatisfactory and have raised a national agitation which would for the moment have conquered priestly influence."

However the opponents of Home Rule may have hated Mr. Parnell in the pass as the arch representative of that policy, his death under existing circumstances is undoubtedly a disadvantage to them. There is now a prospect of a united party of Nationalists and Gladstorian Home Rulers; a prospect which was lately darkened by Mr. Parnell's personality. This death takes Home Rulers back to the position before the divorce case; only that the Irish wing will have no longer the prestige of Mr. Parnell's name. Probably that is no reason for regret in the opinion of well-known Irishmen. Thus one of them has just said, "We have done with one man power for ever. The leader in the future will be democratic, not autocratic. the mouth-piece, not the master, of the movement for He must be Home Rule." The opportunity for such a constitution has been come with the death of the great outscrat.

Turning to other English political matters for a moment and without dwelling upou them at length, I may notice the other death which has happened during the week of no less a person than the leader of the House of Commons, Mr. Smith. It is said that Mr. Goschen, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and a Liberal Unionist is likely to succeed to his position. The political season which was just beginning, and may be said to have been started by the great meetings of the National Liberal Federation at Newcastle, at which were present the leaders of the Liberal party and where Mr. Gladstone put forward the Liberal programme, has thus been marked by two very important events affecting the leaderships of parties. One cannot help remarking upon these two deaths that the one man whose death has formed the subject of speculation amongst Unionists as most deeply affecting

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the Irish question should, in spite of his eighty two years, have during this same week addressed a meeting of thousands with apparently all his wonted health and vigour. There is only one passage in Mr. Gladstone's speech that relates either directly or indirectly to India and this is a reference to the occupation of Egypt to which I should perhaps call your attention. It occurs in the general approval of Lord Salisbury's foreign policy and is as follows. Mr. Gladstone said "I shall indeed rejoice if before the day comes for the present administration to give up the ghost it be possible for Lord Salisbury to make an effort to relieve us from that burdensome and embarrassing occupation of Egypt which so long as it lasts, rely upon it must be a cause of weakness and a source of embarrassment which we owe entirely to engagements contracted by a former Tory Government and the escape from which I greatly fear the present Tory Government improved as it is in its foreign policy will, not withstanding hand over to its successors to deal with." These statements, together with a similar one of Mr. John Morley's to which I have before referred, have been taken as a sign that the Liberal party are prepared to evacuate Egypt should they be returned to power at the next general election. Without actually confessing to a desire to stick to Egypt for ever there is a party who believe that for the sake of India we should stay there indefinitely and especially that in the present condition of European politics we should hold on. The language of the Liberal leaders is almost treason in the eyes of this party and they will not fail to make India a text for arousing fear in the minds of electors against their policy of the Liberals. It seems rash on the part of the Liberals to have raised the question at present.

The North Eastern Afghan Frontier.

The question of the expedition of Russia against the Pamir has taken the place of the Russo-Afghan boundary question on the North West, in public attention.

According to the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Times*, the Russians at the time of the demarcation of the North Western Frontiers proposed the delimitation of the whole Afghan frontier; but the British Government considered that affairs on the North and North East of Afghanistan were not then ripe for an Anglo-Russian Boundary Commission. Meanwhile the Ameer Abdur Rahman has pushed his authority over the unknown North and North Eastern sections of the Afghan border countries as much as possible, and by so doing the Russian opinion has been "maturing affairs there to the advantage of British interests." The Chinese too are said to have pushed forward their frontier posts from the other side and British Indian authority between the Afghans on the one side and the Chinese on the other has not been stationary. It has not to be expected therefore that the Russians would remain passive. The Pamir plateau belongs to no body in particular and as the English, the Afghans and the Chinese have been gradually closing in upon this region or intend to do so, the Russians too wish to take their share while they have the chances. In the correspondent's opinion the Pamir plateau will no more keep the Russians back in their search for strong and settled frontiers to say nothing of their determination to obtain as close a touch as possible with the barrier of India—than the TransCaspian deserts and Turkomans kept them back from the North-Western frontier of Afghanistan. He thinks the best thing to do would be for the British Government to appoint Captain Younghusband as Commissioner to make the necessary studies for the eventual delimitation of definite frontiers and for the Russian Government to appoint Prince Galistan or Gromtcheveski for the same purpose. Upon the TransCaspian side it appears that General Karoupatkin has been visiting the extreme limits of the frontier and constructing military and strategical roads on the way to Herat. These roads meet on the frontier nearest towards Herat at a point where there is a military post which has been named "Klooch"—a Russian forward meaning "Key"—so that the post of Klooch signifies the Key of the position. One section of these roads appears to overstep the frontier and trespass for some little distance on Afghan territory. The correspondent says this appears to be the case on referring to a map of the boundary survey but it remains to be seen whether the news of a Russian strategical road being made on actual Afghan soil is confirmed by more competent authorities.

An interesting letter dated 4th August has been published by a gentleman which he received from an Englishman who in pursuit of adventure was travelling in Kashmir. The writer of this letter says "I have been marching by myself for the last three weeks. I have had a most interesting march all over Baltistan and Ladak to the frontier of Chinese Tibet. The road is over 17,000 feet high at the passes amid ice and snow, I met Major C—of the Indian Intelligence Department at Gilghit and am going with him to the Pamir steppes—the roof of the world as it is called, inhabited by a few Kurdish nomads. The Pamir is an unknown country, and no man's land, upon which it is supposed Russia is casting her eye, for it is across this she might march on India, and I have no doubt there are Russian emissaries exploring it now; we may possibly meet them. The Pamir steppe is only passable for about three months of the year and it is only just open now."

The "Times" on the provision against Famine.

The "*Times*" has a long statement this week of the course of the threatened famine as it has appeared from the telegram and accounts received from India during the last few months. It sums up the prospect by saying that what we have now to fear is a severe but local scarcity in Madras and a wide-spread scarcity in Burmah which will tax to the utmost the administrative resources of that province. The efforts being made on its account are contrasted with the apathy with which the Kings of Burmah looked upon the suffering of their subjects and are pointed to as an object lesson for those who question the benefits of British rule in India. Each five years of the quarter of a century which has passed sence John Lawrence declared that he should hold the district officers of British India responsible for deaths from famine have seen, the writer says, an advance made in an organized system of dealing with famine which is now giving a reality to his fiat which neither the natives nor the British would then have deemed possible. The writer seems to accept what has been done as leaving no room for adverse criticism and in reference to the charges of Mr. W. S. Caine and the denunciation of the Governor of Madras of these charges as "absolutely malicious and a downright falsehood's he says "this is the vigorous Anglo Indian way of intimating that a man is misinformed or mistaken as to his facts and there can be no doubt that the ex-member of Parliament was grievously misinformed or mistaken." The authoritative Memorandum of the tour of the Governor is taken as the basis for a description of the distress in the Madras districts and the measures of relief remission and advances made to meet it, the Memorandum, the writer says, shows how a severe Indian scarcity among three millions of people is firmly taken in hand from the outset and dealt with under the system laid down in the Famine Code. The object of that system is first to prevent scarcity from passing into famine and at a later stage to prevent famine from passing into starvation." There may come a dearth in India so severe and so widely spread as to defy human con.rol, and to render any Famine Code a poor safeguard. But such a dearth although always possible is practically unknown in modern India. Lord Wenlock has shown how the system which has been slowly elaborated for dealing with famine really works in the hands of a capabie and energetic Governor aided by experienced and devoted district officers. He has safely tided over the afflicted districts, during six months of intense strain and great peril to the season when the north east monsoon may be reasonably hoped to bring relief. His success is in no small measure due to the personal activity with which he has followed the example of his predecessor Lord Connemara, of riding through the threatened districts and seeing things with his own eyes."

ROBERT HOTZ

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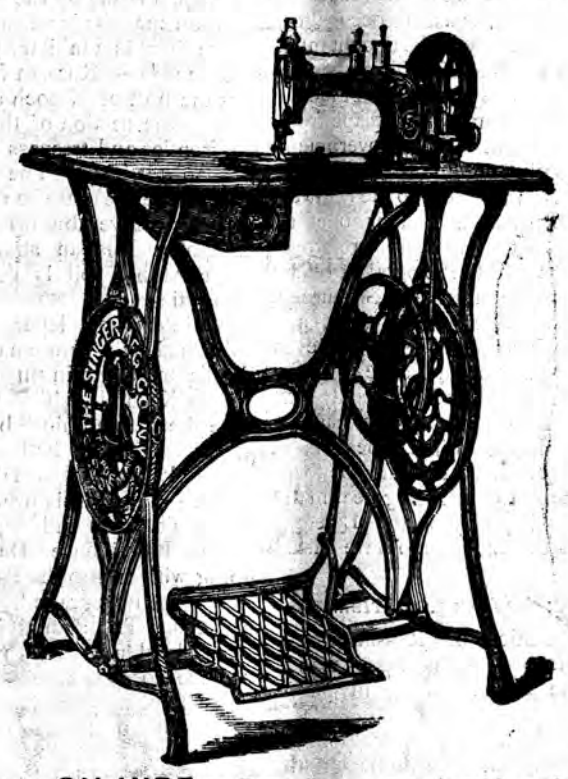

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Government Notification

Calcutta Gazette—*October* 28, 1891.

GENERAL. Mr. Kedar Nath Roy is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, with effect from the date on which he was relieved of his appointment as Officiating District and Sessions Judge, Rungpore.

Mr. Kedar Nath Roy is appointed to have charge of the Chooadanga sub-division of the Nuddea district until further orders.

Babu Sukumar Haldar, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to perform the functios of a Collector under section 4 of the Public Demands Recovery Act VII (B. C.) of 1880 in the district of Beerbhoom.

Babu Roy Brahma Dut Probationary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on Excise work, Durbhunga is allowed leave for fifteen days, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 20th instant.

Babu Gobind Chunder Dass, Probationary Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to perform the functions of a Collector under section 4 of the Public Demands Recovery Act VII (B. C.) of 1880 in the district of Maldah.

Mr. G. E. Manisty, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Moorshedabad, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Chittagong.

Mr. F. R. S. Collier, Magistrate and Collector, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Moorshedobad.

Mr. E. F. Ainslie, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajmahal, Sonthal Pergunnahs, on leave is posted to Beerbhoom, and is appointed to have charge of the Rampore Haut sub-division of that district.

Mr. W. H. H. Vincent, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Colluctor, Rampore Hat, Beerbhoom, is transferred to the Sonthal Pergunnaffs district, and is appointed to have charge of the Rajmehal sub-division of that district.

Mr. A. Smith, Commissioner of the Presidency Division, is appointed to be a Member of the Board of Revenue from the date of retirement of the Hon'ble F. M. Halliday.

Mr. J. Beames, Commissioner, Bhagulpore Division, is appointed to be Commissioner of the Presidency Division.

Mr. E. V. Westmacott, Commissioner of Excise Bengal, is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Presidency Division, during the absence, on furlough, of Mr. J. Beames, or until further orders.

Babu Triguna Nath Mukherji was emyloyed as Officiating Special Deputy Collector, in charge of the cess revalu ation of the Rajshahye district, from the 15th June to the 7th July 1891.

Mr. H Beveridge, additional District and Sessions Judge, 24-Pergunnahs ahd Hooghly, on furlough is appointed to be District and Sessions Judge of Rajshahye.

Mr. R. F. Rampini, District and Sessions Judge, Burdwan, is appointed to be Aadditional District and Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs and Hooghly, with effect from the afternoon of the 9th instant.

Mr. J. H, Temple, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Burdwan, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the district of Mymensingh.

Mr. Brojendra Nath De, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Khoolna, is allowed leave for twenty-seven dayy, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 21st August 1891.

Colonel E. G. Lillingston, Deputy Commissioner, Loharddugga, is allowed leave for one month under raticle 291 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the date on which he is relieved of his present appointment as Officiating Commissioner, Chota Nagpore Division.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Gordon is appointed to be a Deputy Commissioner of the second grade, and to be Deputy Commissioner of Palamow.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gordon is appointed to act as Deputy Commissioner of Lohardugga, during the absence, on privilege leave, of Colonel E. G. Lillingston, or until further orders.

Babu Nityauando Ghose, special Sub-Deputy Collector, employed on the duty of acquiring lands in the districts of Cuttack and Balasore, is appointed to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the fourth grade and a substantive protempare Sub-Deputy Collector of the third grade, with effect from the lst April 1891, but will continue on deputation.

JUDICIAL—The Independent Bench of Honorary Magistrates at Brahmanberiah, in the district of Tipperah, is vested, under section 15 of Act X of 1882, with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class, and with powers to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 261 of the Code of Criminal Proceduture.

Mulvi Fazl-Kareem, Officiating Munsif of Lakhimpore in the district of Noakhally, is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Chittagong, to be ordinarily stationed at North Raojan, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Pares Nath Bhattachrerjee, or until further orders.

Babu Rakhal Chandra Bose, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Bhagulpore, to to be crdinarily stationed at Monghyr, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Krishna Chandra Das, or until further orders.

Babu Mohendra Kumar Ghose, M.A., B.L., is appointed to act as as a Munsif in the district of Chittagong, to be ordinary stationed at Cox's Bazar, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Dandadhari Biswas, or until further orders.

Babu Upendra Chandra Chatterjea, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Dacca, to be ordinarily stationed at Manickgunge, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Promotho Krishna Singh, or unti further orders.

Babu Koylash Chandra Sen, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Noakhally, to be ordinarily stationed at Lakhimpore, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Gobind Deb Mukerji, or until further orders.

Babu Bunwari Lal Banerji B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif, in the district of Chittagong, to be ordinarily stationed at Satkania, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Latu Behari Bose, or until further orders.

GRANTS of leave to Munsifs.—Babu Promotha Krishna Singh, Munsif under orders of transfer to Manickgunge, in the district of Dacca, is allowed leave for one month, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the afternoon of the 4th November 1891.

Babu Mohini Mohan Dutt, Munsif of Bhanga, in the district of Furreedpore, is allowed leave for one month under article 264 and 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 10th August 1891, in supersession of the leave granted to him on the 31st July 1891.

Advertisements.

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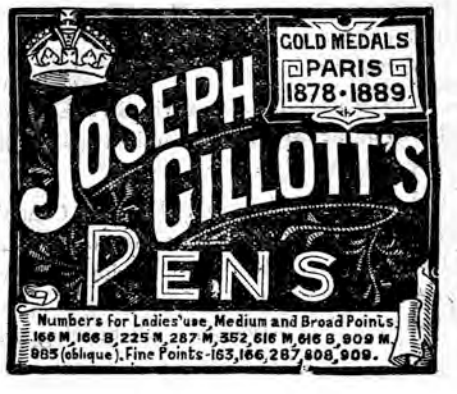
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